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Study of Human Cancer Cells, Tissues and Tumors Treatment Through Interaction Between Synchrotron Radiation and Cerium Nanoparticles

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Abstract

The heat transfer phenomena for single- and double-layer inclined absorbers, which absorb synchrotron radiation has been studied using analytical and numerical methods. Photon penetration through the metal layers has been included and the effects of the spectral variation of the absorption coefficients and variable thermal conductivities have been examined. Different thickness ratios and inclination angles have been studied for double layer absorbers and it has been shown that double-layer inclined absorbers significantly reduce the peak temperatures. In the current study, thermoplasmonic characteristics of cerium nanoparticles with spherical, core-shell and rod shapes were investigated. In order to investigate these characteristics, the interaction of synchrotron radiation emission as a function of the beam energy and cerium nanoparticles were simulated using the 3D finite element method. Firstly, absorption and extinction cross-sections were calculated. Then, increases in temperature due to synchrotron radiation emission as a function of the beam energy absorption were calculated in cerium nanoparticles by solving the heat equation. The obtained results showed that cerium nanorods are a more appropriate option for using in optothermal human cancer cells, tissues and tumor treatment methods. Furthermore, the produced heat devastates tumor tissues adjacent to nanoparticles without any hurt to sound tissues. Regarding the simplicity of ligands connection to cerium nanoparticles for targeting cancer cells, these nanoparticles are more appropriate to use in optothermal human cancer cells, tissues and tumors treatment.



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Introduction

In the past ten years, synchrotron radiation generated by circulating electron or positron beams has been widely used as a powerful X-ray photon source in several fields [1–3]. Recently high energy electron or positron synchrotron storage ring to provide more brilliant and higher flux photons have been proposed and are being constructed [4–6]. The bending magnet enables electrons to circulate in the closed-loop of the storage ring and most of the photons generated should be absorbed before striking the wall of the vacuum chamber of the storage ring and the rest of those are extracted for experimental use [7]. Photon absorbers have been installed in an ultra-high vacuum storage ring to absorb unwanted photons [8]. Since synchrotron radiation generated by a high energy ring is very powerful, concentrated and penetrating, the absorber is subjected to the extremely high internal heat (comparable to that of an electron beam welding machine). Depending on the materials used, this energy generation may be restricted to the region near the surface or distributed throughout the absorber decaying exponentially in the direction of the penetration.

The cooling of the absorber is important not only to prevent the melting of the material but also to ensure an ultra-high vacuum ($\sim 10^{-9}$ torr) in a storage ring. Note that photon energy deposition in the metal causes the desorption of gases, which would result in significant increases in the pressure [9, 10]. Inclined photon absorbers have been considered in order to reduce the high wall heat flux; the inclination of the plate to the photon direction increases the photo projection area, and correspondingly, decreases the heat flux [5, 7, 11]. Since copper (Cu), which has generally been used as an absorber material absorbs most of the photons very near the surface and the temperature of the surface becomes very high despite the high thermal conductivity [12]. On the other hand, beryllium (Be), which has been widely used to isolate a storage ring from the experimental line due to its relative transparency to X-rays, diffuses the intense radiation throughout the plate, even though it has a much lower thermal conductivity than copper [13, 14]. To combine the merits of Be and Cu, a Be–Cu composite cylinder has been developed and successfully used [15]. The heat transfer of single or multilayers caused by the absorption of photons has been studied with applications to laser processing and composite materials [16]. In the

present work, inclined single- and double-layer absorbers are analyzed and analytical and numerical solutions are obtained. The effects of the variable absorption coefficient of the metal, which is dependent on the photon spectrum and variable thermal conductivity are examined for different materials. In addition, the effects of different thickness ratios and different inclination angles are also studied for the double layer absorber. The present approach can also be applied to other fields; *e.g.*, laser processing and heat transfer in composite materials.

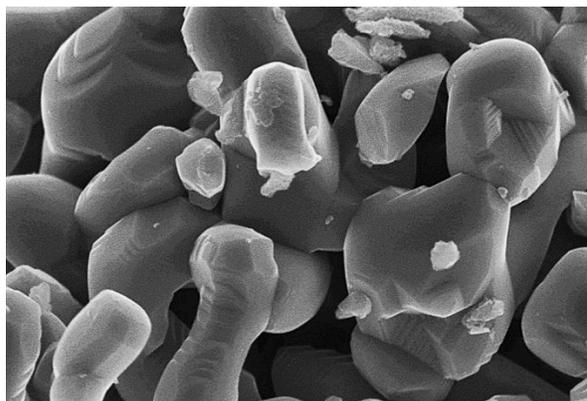


Fig. 1 Scanning electron microscope (SEM) image of cerium nanoparticles with 50000 \times .

In the recent decade, metallic nanoparticles have been widely interested, due to their interesting optical characteristics [1–8]. Resonances of surface plasmon in these nanoparticles lead to an increase in synchrotron radiation emission as a function of the beam energy scattering and absorption in related frequency [9, 10]. Synchrotron radiation emission as a function of the beam energy absorption and induced produced heat in nanoparticles has been considered as a side effect in plasmonic applications for a long time [11–15]. Recently, scientists found that thermoplasmonic characteristics can be used for various optothermal applications in cancer, nanoflows and photonic [17–22]. In optothermal human cancer cells, tissues and tumor treatment, the descendent laser light stimulates resonance of surface plasmon of metallic nanoparticles and as a result of this process, the absorbed energy of descendent light converse to heat in nanoparticles [23–25]. The produced heat devastates tumor tissue adjacent to nanoparticles without any hurt to sound tissues [26–29]. Regarding the simplicity of ligands connection to cerium nanoparticles (Fig. 1) for targeting cancer cells, these nanoparticles are more appropriate to

use in optothermal human cancer cells, tissues and tumor treatment [30–74]. In the current paper, thermoplasmonic characteristics of spherical, core-shell and rod cerium nanoparticles are investigated.

Materials and Methods

To calculate the generated heat in cerium nanoparticles, COMSOL software, which works by Finite Element Method (FEM) was used. All simulations were made in 3D. Firstly, absorption and scattering cross-section areas were calculated by the optical module of the software. Then, using the heat module, temperature variations of nanoparticles and its surrounding environment were calculated with data from the optical module [94–99]. In all cases, cerium nanoparticles are presented in water environment with dispersion coefficient of 1.84 and are subjected to flat wave emission with linear polarization. The intensity of the descendent light was $1 \text{ mW}/\mu\text{m}^2$. The dielectric constant of cerium is dependent on particle size [100–114]. It should be noted that here descendent light means synchrotron radiation (also known as magnetobremstrahlung radiation) is the electromagnetic radiation emitted when charged particles are accelerated radially, *e.g.*, when they are subject to an acceleration perpendicular to their velocity ($a \perp v$). It is produced, for example, in synchrotrons using bending magnets, undulators and/or wigglers. If the particle is non-relativistic, then the emission is called cyclotron emission. If, on the other hand, the particles are relativistic, sometimes referred to as ultrarelativistic, the emission is called synchrotron emission [1]. Synchrotron radiation may be achieved artificially in synchrotrons or storage rings, or naturally by fast electrons moving through magnetic fields. The radiation produced in this way has a characteristic polarization and the frequencies generated can range over the entire electromagnetic spectrum which is also called continuum radiation.

Heat generation in synchrotron radiation emission

When cerium nanoparticles are subjected to descendent light, a part of light scattered (emission process) and the other part absorbed (non-emission process). The amount of energy dissipation in non-emitting process mainly depends on the material and volume of nanoparticles and it can be identified by the absorption cross-section. On the other hand, the emission process whose characteristics depends on volume, shape and surface characteristics of

nanoparticles are explained by scattering cross-section. The sum of absorption and scattering processes that lead to light dissipation is called extinction cross-section [75–85].

Cerium nanoparticles absorb the energy of descendent light and generate some heat in the particle. The generated heat transferred to the surrounding environment and leads to an increase in temperature of adjacent points to nanoparticles. Heat variations can be obtained by the heat transfer equation [86–93].

Results and Discussion

Firstly, calculations were made for cerium nanospheres with a radius of 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45 and 50 nanometers. The results show that by the increase in nanoparticles size, extinction

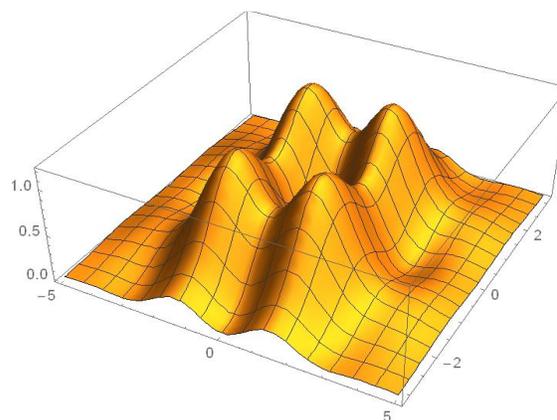


Fig. 2 Maximum increase in temperature for cerium nanospheres. It should be noted that x-axis shows cerium nanospheres radius (nanoparticles size) (nm), y-axis shows temperature of nanospheres in surface plasmon frequency (K) and z-axis shows wavelength (nm).

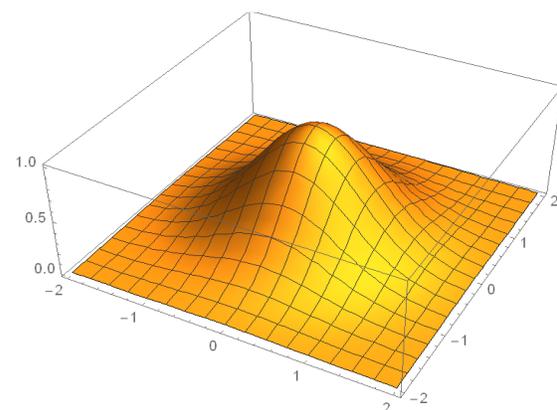


Fig. 3 Variations of absorption to extinction ratio for cerium nanospheres with various radiuses. It should be noted that the x-axis shows cerium nanospheres radius (nanoparticles size) (nm), the y-axis shows absorption and the z-axis shows wavelength (nm).

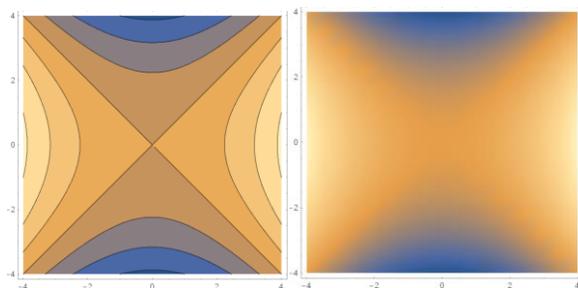


Fig. 4 Maximum increase in temperature for spherical nanoparticles with a radius of 45 nm at plasmon wavelength of 685 nm.

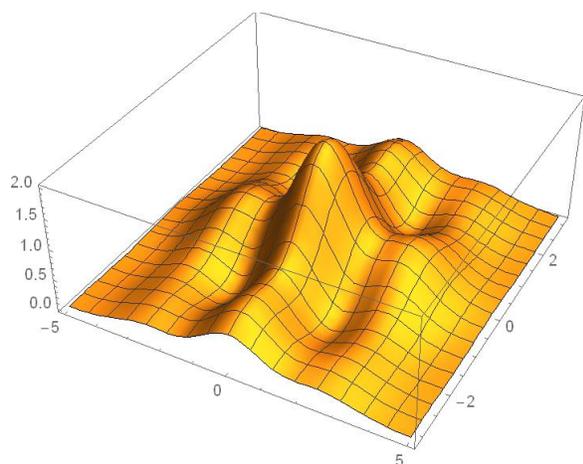


Fig. 5 Maximum increase in temperature for core-shell cerium nanoparticles with various thicknesses of the silica shell. It should be noted that the x-axis shows cerium nanoparticles radius (nanoparticles size) (nm), the y-axis shows the temperature of nanoparticles in surface plasmon frequency (K) and z-axis shows wavelength (nm).

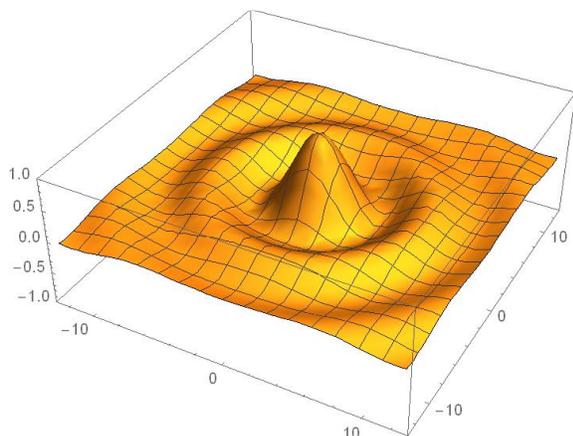


Fig. 6 Maximum increase in temperature for core-shell nanoparticles with a radius of 45 nm and a silica thickness of 10 nm at plasmon wavelength of 701 nm. It should be noted that the x-axis shows cerium nanoparticles radius (nanoparticles size) (nm), the y-axis shows the temperature of nanoparticles in surface plasmon frequency (K) and z-axis shows wavelength (nm).

cross-section area increases and maximum wavelength slightly shifted toward longer wavelengths. The maximum increase in temperature of nanospheres in surface plasmon frequency is shown in Fig. 2. The results showed that the generated heat was increased by the increase in nanoparticles size. For 100 nm nanoparticles (sphere with 50 nm radius), the maximum increase in temperature was 83 K. When nanoparticles size was reached to 150 nm, an increase in temperature was enhanced in spite of the increase in the extinction coefficient.

In order to find the reason for this fact, the ratio of absorption to extinction for various nanospheres in plasmon frequency is shown in Fig. 3. The results showed that increasing the size of nanospheres led to a decrease in the ratio of light absorption to the total energy of descendent light so that for 150 nm nanosphere, scattering was larger than absorption. It seems that despite an increase in nanoparticles size led to more dissipation of descendent light, the dissipation was in the form of scattering and hence, it cannot be effective in heat generation. The results of heat distribution showed that temperature was uniformly distributed throughout the nanoparticles, which was due to the high thermal conductivity of cerium (Fig. 4). In this section, the core-shell structure of cerium and silica was chosen. The core of a nanosphere with a 45 nm radius and silica layer thickness of 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45 and 50 nanometers were considered. The results showed that an increase in silica thickness led to an increase in the extinction coefficient and a shift in the plasmon wavelength of nanoparticles, to some extent.

According to Fig. 5, silica shell causes a considerable increase in temperature of cerium nanoparticles but with more increase in silica thickness, its effect was decreased. Heat distribution shows that the temperature was uniformly distributed throughout the metallic core as well as silica shell (Fig. 6). However, silica temperature was considerably lower than the core temperature due to its lower thermal conductivity. In fact, the silica layer prohibits the heat transfer from metal to the surrounding aqueous environment due to low thermal conductivity. Hence, the temperature of nanoparticles has more increase in temperature. Increasing the thickness of the silica shell leads to an increase in its thermal conductivity and leads to attenuation in the increase in nanoparticle temperature. According to Fig. 7, the variation of the nanorod dimension ratio led to a

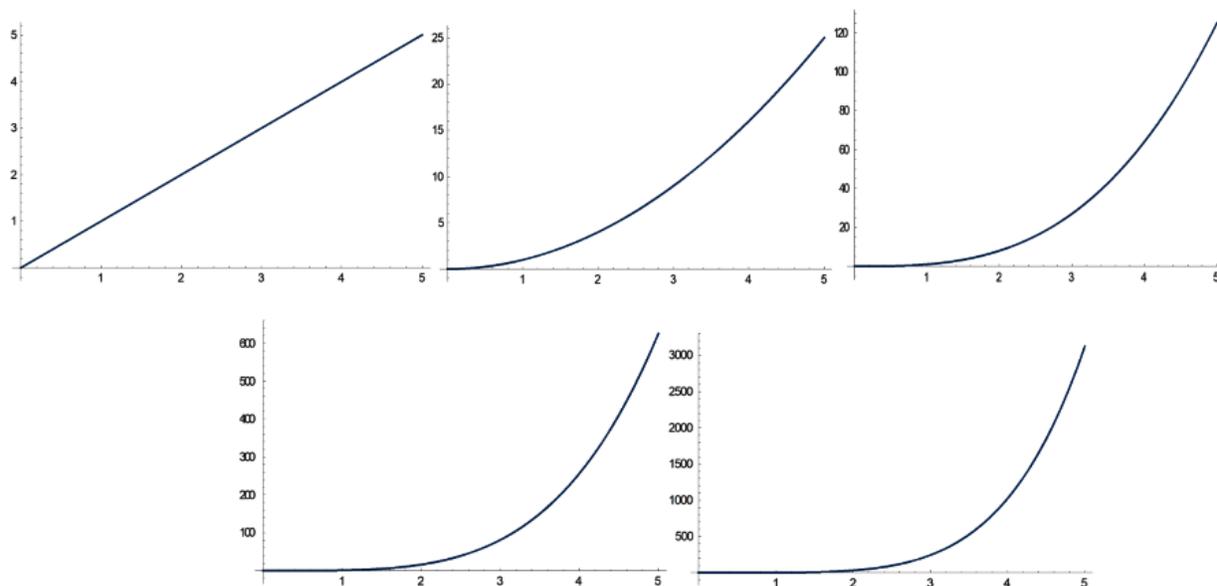


Fig. 7 Extinction cross-section area for cerium nanorods with an effective radius of 45 nm and various dimension ratios.

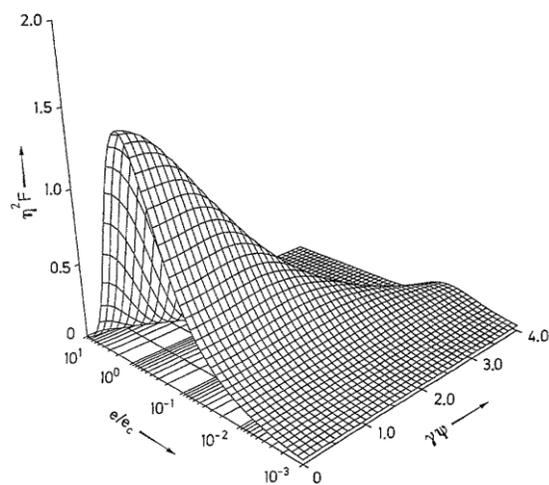


Fig. 8 Spectral and angular distribution of dimensionless synchrotron radiation power per normalized photon energy.

a considerable shift in plasmon wavelength. This fact allows regulating the plasmon frequency to place in the near IR zone. Light absorption by body tissues was lower in this zone of the spectrum and hence, nanorods are more appropriate for optothermal human cancer cells, tissues and tumors treatment methods. Also, Fig. 8 illustrates spectral and angular distribution of dimensionless synchrotron radiation power per normalized photon energy. Variations of temperature in cerium nanorods with two effective radius and various dimension ratios are shown in Fig. 9. By increase in length (a) to radius (b) of nanorod, the temperature was increased.

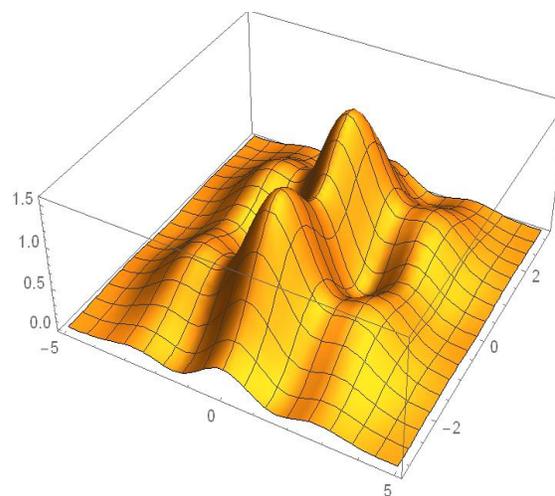


Fig. 9 Maximum increase in temperature for nanorods with an effective radius of 20 nm and 45 nm and various dimension ratios. It should be noted that the x-axis shows the cerium nanospheres radius (nanoparticles size) (nm), the y-axis shows the temperature of nanospheres in surface Plasmon frequency (K) and z-axis shows wavelength (nm).

Conclusions

The calculations showed that in cerium nanoparticles, light absorption in plasmon frequency cause to increase in temperature of the surrounding environment of nanoparticles. In addition, it shows that adding a thin silica layer around the cerium nanospheres increased their temperature. Calculations of nanorods showed that due to the ability to shift surface plasmon frequency

toward longer wavelength as well as more increase in temperature, this nanostructure is more appropriate for medical applications such as optothermal human cancer cells, tissues and tumor treatments.

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Conflict of interest

The authors have no conflict of interest.

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