LIST OF FIGURES

Fig.1.2.1:	Crystal structure of spinel MgAl ₂ O ₄ .	3
Fig.1.2.2:	Crystal structure of cubic spinel and tetrahedral sites and octahedral	4
	sites.	
Fig 1.2.3:	Schematic representation of super-exchange interaction in magnetic	8
	oxides. The p-orbital of anion interact with d orbital of transition metal	
	cations.	
Fig.1.2.4:	Schematic diagram representing super-exchange interaction between	9
	metal cations A B' and AB" mediated through oxygen ion c.	
Fig. 1.2.5:	The spin orientation of magnetic moments in sub-lattices of a ferrimagnetic	10
	material.	
Fig.1.2.6:	Temperature dependence of magnetization and susceptibility in	10
	ferrimagnetic spinel.	
Fig. 1.2.7:	(a)Exchange interactions between ions in a cubic inverse ferrite.	11
	(b) Modified interactions	
Fig. 1.2.8:	Temperature dependence of reciprocal susceptibility above curie	13
	temperature.	
Fig1.2.9:	Different types of temperature dependence of the sub-lattice	14
	magnetizations M_1 and M_2 and the spontaneous magnetization J.	
Fig 1.2.10:	Spatial geometry of d-orbitals and their interaction.	16
F ' 1011		47
Fig 1.2.11:	The metal cation in octanedral field and its energy level diagram.	1/
Fig1.2.12:	Transition-metal cation in a tetrahedral coordination; (a) dx^2-y^2 orbital, (b) dxy orbital (c) corresponding schematic energy level diagram.	18
Fig. 2.1.1:	The Phase diagram of cobalt chromite based on magnetization, specific	29
	heat and literature data.	
Fig. 2.1.2:	Schematic low-temperature phase diagram of CoCr ₂ O ₄ .	31
Fig. 2.1.3:	(a) Crystallographic and low temperature magnetic structure of	34
	CoCr ₂ O ₄ . (b) Temperature dependence of magnetization, M along [001]	
	direction in 0.5 T filed upon cooling; specific heat divided by	
	temperature under zero field upon cooling and dielectric constant 44	
	kHz upon warming under zero field.	

Fig. 2.2.1:	Magnetic phase diagram of ZnCr ₂ O ₄ as a function of Co content.	39
Fig. 2.3.1:	Schematic representation of core-shell nanoparticles. The AFM shell	43
	showed in green and yellow spins whereas FM core spins are in blue.	
Fig. 3.1.1:	Flow chart for synthesis of CoCr ₂ O ₄ nanoparticles of different sizes.	51
Fig.3.1.2:	Experimental schematic diagram for synthesis of Zn doped $\mathrm{Co}\mathrm{Cr}_2\mathrm{O}_4$	53
	nanoparticles.	
Fig.3.2.1:	Schematic representation of incident and diffracted X-rays from the	54
	crystal lattice.	
Fig. 3.2.2:	Schematic representation of X-ray diffraction technique.	55
Fig. 3.2.3:	The experimental set-up of EXAFS; Inset shows the scattering of	62
	photoelectron after incident atomic absorption.	
Fig. 3.2.4 :	MPMS-3, Quantum Design (USA) used for magnetic measurement.	68
Fig. 3.2.5:	Schematic diagram of SQUID magnetometer.	69
Fig. 3.2.6:	The block diagram shows different parts in diffused neutron scattering	71
	experiment.	
Fig.3.2.7:	DNS experimental setup at FRM II, JCNS, Forschungszentrum Julich	72
	GmbH, outstation at the Heinz Mailer-Leibniz Zentrum (MLZ),	
	Germany.	
Fig. 4.2.1:	X-ray diffraction (XRD) pattern of $CoCr_2O_4$ calcined at 500°C and	77
	900°C fitted using Fullprof program.	
Fig. 4.2.2:	High resolution Scanning Electron Micrograph of (a) 10 nm sample	78-79
	and (b) 50 nm sample of $CoCr_2O_4$. Insets show the corresponding	
	particle size distribution histogram.	
Fig. 4.2.3:	Comparison of the EXAFS spectra of Co & Cr K-edge in 10 and 50	81
	nm samples.	
Fig. 4.2.4:	Fourier transformed Co & Cr K-edge of the 10 and 50 nm samples	82
	of the EXAFS for illustrating pair correlations.	
Fig. 4.2.5	(a) & (b) Co K-edge and (c) & (d) Cr K-edge Fourier transformed	85-86
	EXAFS data with magnitude, real and imaginary parts of the phase	
	plotted with fitted curve for 10 nm and 50 nm samples.	

v

- Fig. 4.2.6: Temperature dependent magnetization under zero field cooling 88-89 (ZFC) and field cooling (FC) measured at different magnetic fields such as 0.05 kOe, 0.5 kOe, 10 kOe and 50 kOe for (a) 10 nm sample (b) 50 nm sample respectively. Solid line represents T_L and dashed line represents T_S .
- Fig. 4.2.7
(a) and (b):Real and imaginary parts of ac susceptibility versus temperature92-93(a) and (b):measured at 3 Oe field and at different frequencies such as 3, 31,
229 and 966 Hz for 10 nm and 50 nm samples respectively. Inset of
Fig. 4.2.7 (a) show $\frac{d\chi''}{dT}$ vs. T for 966 Hz frequency. Insets (i & ii) of
Fig. 4.2.7 (b) show the expanded view of the peak shift of real and
imaginary part of ac susceptibility with increasing frequency.
- Fig.4.2.8 Experimental results of ZFC reference curve and ZFC memory 95
 (a) and (b): curve for 10 nm and 50 nm samples respectively. Inset show the difference in magnetization of reference and memory data plotted as a function of temperature for corresponding samples.
- Fig. 4.2.9: Magnetic field (H) dependent Magnetization at 2 K, 10 K, 20 K, 50 97 K, 80 K, 95 K for (a) 10 nm sample and (b) 50 nm sample.
- **Fig.4.2.10:** The temperature dependence of magnetic scattering intensities of 101 fundamental and satellite reflections of 10 nm and 50 nm samples.
- Fig. 4.2.11: Temperature dependence of integrated intensity of the fundamental 102 magnetic (111) reflection and temperature dependence of the peak intensity of the satellite diffuse reflection of 10 nm and 50 nm samples. Solid line represents T_L and dashed line represents T_S .
- **Fig. 4.2.12:** Temperature dependence of the correlation length of the spiral 104 component for 10 nm and 50 nm samples. The values are obtained by taking the inverse of the line width.
- Fig. 5.2.1: (a) Field emission scanning electron micrograph of CoCr₂O₄ and 108(b) particle size histogram.
- **Fig.5.2.2:** Hysteresis loops of $CoCr_2O_4$ measured under field cool condition of 10 110 kOe field at various temperatures.

- **Fig. 5.2.3:** The difference in exchange field observed when loop is measured up to 113 50 kOe and 70 kOe at 5 K.
- **Fig. 5.2.4:** Training effect observed in 7 loops. Changes in magnetic hysteresis 115 loop from first to seventh cycle is shown in inset.
- **Fig. 5.2.5 :** Experimental exchange bias H_{EB} (solid circles) fitted using equation 117 (5.3) (open circle) and equation (5.4) (line). Inset show fitting of experimental data using power law, (H_{EB}) Vs n^{-1/2}. The exchange-bias (H_{EB}) data is obtained at 5 K after field cooling under 10 kOe field.
- **Fig. 5.2.6:** The depth of memory effect observed at halt temperature 75K and halt 120 time of 10000 s in ZFC protocol.
- **Fig. 5.2.7:** The depth of memory effect observed for different halt temperatures. 121 The ZFC memory effect experiment is performed at each temperature with a halt time of 10000 s.
- Fig. 5.2.8: Variation in exchange bias field (H_{EB}) and depth of memory dip with 122 temperature.
- Fig. 6.2.1: (a) X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy of Co for $Zn_xCo_{1-x}Cr_2O_4$, x = 0.05 127 and 0.1.
- Fig. 6.2.1: (b) X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy of Cr for $Zn_xCo_{1-x}Cr_2O_4$, x = 0.05 128 and 0.1.
- Fig. 6.2.1.2: X-ray diffraction (XRD) patterns of Zn_xCo_{1-x}Cr₂O₄ for (a) x=0.05 and 129 (b) x=0.1, fitted with the space group Fd3m using the Le-Bail profile refinement.
- Fig. 6.2.1.3: (a) Transmission electron micrographs of Zn_{0.05}Co_{0.95}Cr₂O₄ (b) Particle 131 size histogram (c) Selective Area Electron Diffraction (SAED) pattern and (d) High resolution TEM image.
- Fig. 6.2.1.4: (a) Transmission electron micrograph of Zn_{0.1}Co_{0.9}Cr₂O₄ (b) Particle 132 size histogram (c) Selective Area Electron Diffraction (SAED) pattern and (d) High resolution TEM image.
- **Fig. 6.2.1.5:** Comparison of the EXAFS spectra of Co K-edge for Zn_xCo_{1-x}Cr₂O₄ 134 (x=0.05, 0.1) nanoparticles. The inset show the expanded view of the pre-edge peak.

- **Fig. 6.2.1.6:** Fourier transforms moduli of the $\chi(R)$ EXAFS signals for Zn, Co and 136 Cr K-edges data.
- Fig. 6.2.1.7: (a) Zn K- edge, (b) Co K-edge and (c) Cr K-edge Fourier transform 138-139
 EXAFS data with real (r) parts of the phase plotted with fitted curves for Zn_xCo_{1-x}Cr₂ O₄ (x=0.05, 0.1).
- Fig. 6.2.2.1: Dc susceptibility Vs. temperature at 500 Oe for $Zn_xCo_{1-x}Cr_2O_4$ 141 (a) x=0.05 and (b) x=0.1. (c) and (d) show $d\chi/dT$ of x=0.05 and 0.1 respectively.
- Fig. 6.2.2.2: (a) Polarized neutron scattering data showing nuclear, magnetic and 144 spin-incoherent scattering for x=0.05.
- Fig. 6.2.2.2: (b) Polarized neutron scattering data showing nuclear, magnetic and 144 spin-incoherent scattering for x=0.1.
- Fig. 6.2.2.3: Temperature dependence of magnetic scattering intensities of 145 fundamental and satellite reflections for Zn_xCo_{1-x}Cr₂O₄ (a) x=0.05 and (b) x=0.1 respectively.
- Fig. 6.2.2.4: Temperature dependence of integrated intensity of the fundamental 146 magnetic (111) reflection and satellite reflection of x = 0.05 and x = 0.1.
- Fig. 6.2.2.5: Temperature dependence of correlation length of the spiral component 148 for x = 0.05 and x = 0.1 respectively.
- Fig. 6.2.2.6: Magnetic field (H) dependent magnetization at (a) 2 K, (b) 20 K and (c) 150 50 K for Zn_xCo_{1-x}Cr₂ O₄ (x=0.05, 0.1). Fig. 6.2.2.6 (d) Show the temperature dependent coercivity and maximum magnetization for both samples.
- Fig. 6.2.2.7: Schematic representation of spin orientation at A and B sites for 152(a) collinear (Neel's Model) and (b) non-collinear (Y-K) Model.
- **Fig. 6.2.2.8:** Real and imaginary parts of ac susceptibility versus temperature at 156 different frequencies 3, 31, 230 and 966 Hz for $Zn_xCo_{1-x}Cr_2 O_4$ (a) x=0.05 and (b) x=0.1 respectively. Fig. 6.2.2.7 (i) depicts the expanded view of the peak shift with frequency for x=0.05. Fig. 6.2.2.8 (ii) depicts $\frac{d\chi'^2}{dT}$ versus temperature at 966 Hz for x=0.05.

- Fig. 6.2.2.9: (a) Relaxation time (τ) is fitted using Neel-Arrhenius law for 157 $Zn_{0.05}Co_{0.95}Cr_2O_4$. Fig. 6.2.2.9 (b) and (c) depicts fitting using and Vogel-Fulcher's law and power law respectively.
- Fig. 7.2.1: X-ray diffraction (XRD) patterns of $Zn_xCo_{1-x}Cr_2O_4$ for x=0.15, 0.2, 0.5 161 and 0.8 fitted with the space group Fd $\overline{3}$ m using the Le-Bail profile refinement.

Fig. 7.2.2 Fitted XPS spectra of Co and Cr for $Zn_xCo_{1-x}Cr_2O_4$ (x = 0.15, 0.2, 0.5 163 and (b): and 0.8).

- Fig. 7.2.3: EXAFS spectra of Co K-edge for $Zn_xCo_{1-x}Cr_2O_4$ (x=0.15, 0.2, 0.5, 0.8) 165 nanoparticles. The expanded view of the pre-edge peak is shown in inset.
- **Fig. 7.2.4:** Fourier transforms of $\chi(R)$ EXAFS for Zn, Co and Cr K-edges data. 166
- Fig. 7.2.5: (a) Real (r) parts of the phase plotted with fitted curves for $Zn_xCo_{1-x}Cr_2$ 168-169 O₄ (x=0.15, 0.2,0.5, 0.8) for (a) Zn K- edge, (b) Co K-edge and (c) Cr K-edge Fourier transform of EXAFS.
- Fig. 7.3.1: Temperature dependent magnetization at 500 Oe for $Zn_xCo_{1-x}Cr_2O_4$ (a) 171-173 x=0.15 (b) x=0.2 (c) x=0.5 and (d) x=0.8.
- Fig. 7.3.2: Magnetic field (H) dependent magnetization at (a) 2 K and (b) 20 K for 176 $Zn_xCo_{1-x}Cr_2O_4$ (x=0.15, 0.2, 0.5, 0.8).
- Fig. 7.3.3: Experimental and calculated magnetization with x in $Zn_xCo_{1-x}Cr_2O_4$ 178 (x=0-0.8).
- Fig. 7.3.4: Real part of ac susceptibility versus temperature at different frequencies 180-181 3, 31, 230 and 966 Hz for $Zn_xCo_{1-x}Cr_2 O_4$ (a) x=0.15, (b) x=0.2, (c) x=0.5 and (d) x=0.8.