

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements	i
Table of Contents	iii
List of Figures.....	vii
List of Tables	xxiii
List of Abbreviations	xxv
List of Symbols	xxvii
Preface.....	xxxi
Chapter 1 Introduction and Literature Review.....	1
1.1 Introduction.....	1
1.2 Ferroics	1
1.3 Ferromagnetism	2
1.4 Antiferromagnetism and Ferrimagnetism	3
1.5 Ferroelectricity	5
1.6 Antiferroelectricity and Ferrielectricity	6
1.7 Quantum Paraelectrics	7
1.8 Spin-Glasses, Dipole glasses and Relaxors	9
1.9 Multiferroics	14
1.10 The Hexaferrites.....	15
1.10.1 Crystal Structure	15
1.10.2 Multiferroicity in Hexaferrites	19
1.10.3 Technological Applications of Hexaferrites	23
1.11 Recent Advances in M-type Hexaferrites	24
1.12 Objectives of the Present Work	33
Chapter 2 Synthesis of Polycrystalline and Single-Crystal Growth of BaFe₁₂O₁₉	35
2.1 Introduction.....	35
2.2 Experimental	36
2.3 Synthesis of BaFe ₁₂ O ₁₉ Polycrystalline Samples	36
2.3.1 Optimization of Calcination Temperature	37

2.3.2	Optimization of Sintering Temperature	38
2.4	Details of Crystal Growth of BaFe ₁₂ O ₁₉	39
2.4.1	Crystallinity and Phase Purity of Single Crystals	39
2.4.2	Chemical Composition of Single Crystals	41
2.4.3	Iodometry Titration	42
2.5	Room Temperature Crystal Structure of BaFe ₁₂ O ₁₉	43
2.6	Conclusions.....	47
Chapter 3	Magnetic Ground State of BaFe₁₂O₁₉: Evidence for Noncollinear Magnetic Structure and Incommensurate Conical Modulation.....	49
3.1	Introduction.....	49
3.2	Current Understanding of the XAS Spectra at the Fe L _{2,3} -edges.....	51
3.3	Current Understanding of X-ray Magnetic Circular Dichroism (XMCD) at the Fe L _{2,3} -edges	54
3.4	Experimental	59
3.5	Results and Discussion	60
3.5.1	XAS and XMCD Study at the Fe L _{2,3} -edges at 1.2 K.....	60
3.5.2	Neutron Diffraction Study at 1.5 K.....	68
3.6	Conclusions.....	71
Chapter 4	Evidence for Spin Canting in BaFe₁₂FO₁₉ at T > 1.5 K	73
4.1	Introduction.....	73
4.2	Experimental	74
4.3	Results and Discussion	75
4.3.1	DC Magnetization Studies	75
4.3.2	XAS and XMCD Studies at the Fe L _{2,3} -edges from 1.2 to 30 K	79
4.3.3	Variation of the Magnetic Moment obtained from XMCD and dc Magnetization Measurements with Temperature.....	84
4.3.4	XAS Studies at the Oxygen (O) K-edge	88
4.3.4.1	XAS Study at Oxygen K-edge at 1.2 K.....	88
4.3.4.2	XAS Spectra at the Oxygen K-edge as a Function of Temperature	91
4.4	Conclusions.....	94
Chapter 5	Evidence for Four Spin-Glass Transitions in BaFe₁₂O₁₉ due to Successive Freezing of Transverse and Longitudinal Spin Components	101
5.1	Introduction.....	101
5.2	Experimental	103

5.3	Magnetic Susceptibility Studies.....	104
5.3.1	Evidence for the Freezing of the Transverse Component of the Spins.....	104
5.3.2	Evidence for the Freezing of the Longitudinal Component of the Spins	114
5.3.3	Signatures of the Spin-Glass Transitions in the Single-Crystal Neutron Diffraction Studies	119
5.3.4	The Outlook	127
5.4	Conclusions.....	131
Chapter 6	Characteristics of the Spin-Glass Transitions Associated with Transverse and Longitudinal Freezing Using Polycrystalline Samples.....	133
6.1	Introduction.....	133
6.2	Experimental	135
6.3	AC susceptibility $\chi(\omega, T, H, t)$ Studies on BaFe ₁₂ O ₁₉	136
6.3.1	Comparison of $\chi(\omega, T)$ of Polycrystalline and Single-Crystalline Samples.....	136
6.3.2	Confirmation of Ergodicity Breaking for the two Transitions in BaFe ₁₂ O ₁₉ Powder	138
6.3.3	Evidence for the Gabay-Toulouse (G-T) and Almeida-Thouless (A-T) lines ...	143
6.3.4	Evidence for the None-Exponential Relaxation: Isothermal Remanent Magnetization (IRM)	146
6.3.5	Study of Aging, Rejuvenation and Memory Effect in BaFe ₁₂ O ₁₉	148
6.4	Conclusions.....	150
Chapter 7	Role of Incommensurate Longitudinal Conical Modulation and Evidence for Another Spin-Glass Transition in BaFe₁₂O₁₉.....	153
7.1	Introduction.....	153
7.2	Experimental	155
7.3	Results and Discussion	156
7.3.1	Evidence for a High-Temperature Diffuse Magnetic Transition: Magnetization and Specific Heat Studies	156
7.3.2	Signature of the Diffuse Magnetic Transition in Single-Crystal Neutron Diffraction Patterns	159
7.3.3	Confirmation of the Spin Glass Character of the Diffuse Magnetic Transition	165
7.4	Conclusions.....	173
Chapter 8	Emergent Kagome Spin Configurations in the Basal Plane of BaFe₁₂O₁₉ as a Function of Temperature	175
8.1	Introduction.....	175
8.2	Experimental	176

8.3	Previous Predictions for Spin Canting in BaFe ₁₂ O ₁₉	177
8.4	Neutron Powder Diffraction Studies.....	178
8.4.1	The Irreducible representation for Fe ³⁺ in BaFe ₁₂ O ₁₉	180
8.4.2	Isotropy Subgroups for the Combination of Different Irreducible Representations	183
8.4.3	Details of the Rietveld Refinement.....	184
8.4.3.1	Results of Rietveld refinements.....	185
8.4.4	Evidence for Geometrical Frustration in the Magnetic Structure of BaFe ₁₂ O ₁₉	187
8.5	Genesis of Randomness in BaFe ₁₂ O ₁₉	192
8.5.1	Evidence for magnetoelastic strain in BaFe ₁₂ O ₁₉	193
8.5.2	Role of the Exchange Anisotropy	199
8.5.3	The Origin of the Incommensurate Conical Spin-Glass Phase.....	200
8.6	Conclusions.....	202
Chapter 9	Quantum Phase Transition in Ba_(1-x)Ca_xFe₁₂O₁₉.....	205
9.1	Introduction.....	205
9.2	Experimental	207
9.3	Results and Discussion	209
9.3.1	Evidence for chemical pressure generated by Ca ²⁺ substitution	209
9.3.2	Effect of Ca ²⁺ Substitution on Quantum Critical Behaviour of BFO	214
9.3.3	Evidence for Quantum Electric Dipole Glass State in Ca ²⁺ Substituted BFO...218	218
9.3.4	Evidence for Quantum Electric Dipole Liquid (QEDL) Phase	221
9.4	Conclusions.....	227
Chapter 10	Summary and Suggestions for Future Work	229
10.1	Summary	229
10.2	Suggestions for Future work.	232
References		235
List of Publications		293

List of Figures

Figure 1.1: Variation of magnetization and susceptibility below and above Curie temperature (T_c) [38].	3
Figure 1.2: A few examples of Ising antiferromagnets [41].	4
Figure 1.3: Variation of susceptibility and inverse susceptibility of an antiferromagnetic materials [38]. AF: antiferromagnetic and P: paramagnetic.	5
Figure 1.4: Typical hysteresis loop for an antiferromagnetic material [46].	7
Figure 1.5: Variation of dielectric constant with temperature for a quantum paraelectric [49].	8
Figure 1.6: Schematic representation of magnetic spin in triangular lattice by considering (a) ferromagnetic and (b) antiferromagnetic nearest neighbour interactions [62].	9
Figure 1.7: Static (dc) susceptibility (M/H) vs temperature (T) plots of CuMn system with different magnetic impurity concentration (Mn) [61].....	10
Figure 1.8: The temperature dependence of real part of ac-susceptibility of CuMn alloy system. Inset shows frequency dispersion across the freezing temperature. Peak position shifts to higher temperature side with increasing frequency [61].	11
Figure 1.9: Schematic representation of the temperature variations of the odd harmonics (χ_1, χ_3 and χ_5) in ac susceptibility [63].	12
Figure 1.10: Thermoremanent magnetization (TRM) plot of $\text{Ca}(\text{Fe}_{1/2}\text{Nb}_{1/2})\text{O}_3$ recorded at 15 K for 1000 Oe applied magnetic field using wait time of 1000 s [75].	13
Figure 1.11: Ternary phase diagram for the hexaferrites.....	16
Figure 1.12: The arrangement of the different layers of O^{2-} and Ba^{2+} ion within the unit cell of $\text{BaFe}_{12}\text{O}_{19}$ M-type hexaferrite [98].	17
Figure 1.13: Unit cell of $\text{BaFe}_{12}\text{O}_{19}$ [98].	18
Figure 1.14: S, R and T blocks [12].....	19

Figure 1.15: Schematic proposed magnetic structures of magnetoelectric Y-type hexaferrites. (a) collinearly ferrimagnetic [91], (b) the proper-screw [91] and (c) longitudinal-conical [101] magnetic structure. The short and long arrows indicate the effective moment in S and L blocks, respectively [91,101].	21
Figure 1.16: Schematic (a) proposed transverse-conical [101] magnetic structures of Y-type hexaferrites and (b) cycloid type magnetic structure [91].	22
Figure 1.17: Practical applications of hexagonal ferrites [12].	24
Figure 1.18: Trigonal bipyramidal polyhedra.....	25
Figure 1.19: Temperature dependence of reciprocal susceptibility of BaFe ₁₂ O ₁₉ single-crystal measured with dc field of 1000 Oe applied parallel (H // c) and perpendicular (H // ab) to the c-axis [137].	28
Figure 1.20: (a) Variation of the magnetic viscosity S with temperature. Inset shows the behaviour of S on the zoomed scale [28]. (b) The c-axis dielectric permittivity ϵ_c as a function of temperature for BaFe ₁₂ O ₁₉ . Inset of (b) shows the same plot with a logarithmic scale in temperature [14].	29
Figure 1.21: The kT^{-1} versus T^2 plot in the lowest temperature region in the presence of 0 T and 14 T applied along c-axis. The inset shows the Arrhenius plot of $k^* = k - \beta T^3$ below ~125 mK [7].....	31
Figure 2.1: XRD profiles of BaFe ₁₂ O ₁₉ calcined at 1273 K and 1373 K. The position of impurity peak due to Fe ₂ O ₃ is marked with (*).	37
Figure 2.2: XRD profile for BaFe ₁₂ O ₁₉ , sintered at different temperatures. The position of the impurity peak of Fe ₂ O ₃ is marked with arrow.	38
Figure 2.3: (a) Image of the as-grown crystal and (b) Laue diffraction recorded on the single-crystal of BaFe ₁₂ O ₁₉	40

Figure 2.4: Comparison of XRD pattern on powder obtained after crushing the single-crystals and sintered samples of BaFe ₁₂ O ₁₉ . The arrow shows the position of the most intense peak of α -Fe ₂ O ₃ which is absent in both the samples.	40
Figure 2.5: Comparison of neutron powder diffraction (NPD) pattern collected on sintered samples with XRD pattern collected on powder obtained after crushing the single-crystals and sintered samples of BaFe ₁₂ O ₁₉ , at room temperature. The Q = 2.32 Å ⁻¹ marked with arrow is the position of most intense nuclear peak of α -Fe ₂ O ₃ at 300 K.	41
Figure 2.6: EDX spectra of single-crystal of BaFe ₁₂ O ₁₉	42
Figure 2.7: Observed (filled red circles), calculated (continuous black line), and difference (bottom green line) profiles obtained from Rietveld refinement using P6 ₃ /mmc space group for (a) powder and (b) single-crystal samples of BaFe ₁₂ O ₁₉ . The vertical bars (blue) represent the Bragg peak positions.....	45
Figure 3.1: Schematic representation of (a) collinear magnetic structure of BaFe ₁₂ O ₁₉ , (b) coordination polyhedra for Fe ³⁺ ions in BaFe ₁₂ O ₁₉ and (c) longitudinal conical magnetic structure due to precession of the net moment in the R and R' blocks about the c-axis for canted spins.....	51
Figure 3.2: XAS spectra of (a) α -Fe ₂ O ₃ , GaFeO ₃ and γ -Fe ₂ O ₃ [200,201], (b) LaFeO ₃ [201], (c) Ba _{0.5} Sr _{1.5} Zn ₂ Fe ₁₂ O ₂₂ [6] and (d) SrFe ₁₂ O ₁₉ [202] at the Fe L _{2,3} -edges.	53
Figure 3.3: Atomic multiplet calculation based simulation of XAS spectra at the L _{2,3} -edges of Fe at different Wyckoff position in SrFe ₁₂ O ₁₉ [202] with octahedral (OH), trigonal bipyramidal (TBP) and tetrahedral (TH) environments.	54
Figure 3.4 The Stoner model for the splitting of 3d valence band of transition metal in ferro/ferrimagnetic materials [205].	55

Figure 3.5: XMCD signal at the Fe L _{3,2} -edges measured in the (a) γ -Fe ₂ O ₃ [206], (b) GaFeO ₃ [200], (c) CoFe ₂ O ₄ [207] and (d) SrFe ₁₂ O ₁₉ [202]. OH, TPB and TH stand for octahedral, trigonal bipyramidal and tetrahedral, respectively.....	56
Figure 3.6: XMCD spectra at the Fe L _{2,3} -edges calculated for each iron cation of SrFe ₁₂ O ₁₉ [202]. OH, TPB and TH stand for octahedral, trigonal bipyramidal and tetrahedral, respectively.....	58
Figure 3.7: (a) XAS spectra recorded at the Fe L _{2,3} -edges measured at 1.2 K on a single-crystal of BaFe ₁₂ O ₁₉ in NI geometry using right (σ_+) and left (σ_-) circularly polarised X-ray beams. The dotted lines represent the linear background. (b) Normalised XAS spectra and (c) XMCD signal. OH and TH in (c) is stand for octahedral and tetrahedral environments.....	62
Figure 3.8: (a) XAS spectra recorded at the Fe L _{2,3} -edges measured at 1.2 K on a single-crystal of BaFe ₁₂ O ₁₉ in grazing incidence geometry without field using right (σ_+) and left (σ_-) circularly polarised X-ray beams. The dotted lines represent the linear background. (b) Normalised XAS spectra and (c) XMCD signal.	64
Figure 3.9: (a) XAS spectra recorded at the Fe L _{2,3} -edges measured at 1.2 K on a single-crystal of BaFe ₁₂ O ₁₉ in grazing incidence geometry with field of 0.5 T using right (σ_+) and left (σ_-) circularly polarised X-ray beams. The dotted lines represent the linear background. (b) Normalised XAS spectra and (c) XMCD signal.	65
Figure 3.10: (a) The XMCD signal and (b) sum XAS along with their integration measured in grazing incidence geometry without field at 1.2 K. The dotted line in (b) is the two-step-like function used for edge jump removal before XAS integration.....	66
Figure 3.11: (a) The XMCD signal and (b) sum XAS along with their integration measured in grazing incidence geometry with field of 0.5 T at 1.2 K. The dotted line in (b) is the two-step-like function used for edge jump removal before XAS integration. ...	67

Figure 3.12: M-H curve measured at 2 K on single-crystal under various field applied (a) perpendicular and (b) parallel to the c-axis.....	68
Figure 3.13: Single-crystal neutron diffraction pattern recorded along $00l$ reciprocal lattice row at 1.5 K depicting a magnetic peak around 003 position. The inset shows the triplet character of the magnetic peak with reflections at $l = 3$ and $l = 003 - \tau_1$ and $003 + \tau_2$ positions.	69
Figure 4.1: (a) Variation of the dc magnetization $M_{\perp c}$ and $M_{\parallel c}$ measured with a field of 500 Oe applied parallel (\parallel) and perpendicular (\perp) to the c-axis of the crystal. (b) The first derivative plot of $M_{\perp c}$ and $M_{\parallel c}$ with respect to the temperature. (c) Curie-Weiss fit for $\chi_{\parallel c}(T)$ and (d) $\chi_{\perp c}(T)$	76
Figure 4.2: Magnified view of the temperature dependence of $M_{\perp c}$ and $M_{\parallel c}$ in the 2 K to 300 K range, measured with a dc field of 500 Oe, during the warming cycle on a ZFC crystal. The inset shows the occurrence of a magnetic transition at low temperatures on a magnified scale in a smaller temperature range.....	78
Figure 4.3: Variation of the magnetic anisotropy parameter $A = (\frac{M_{\perp c}}{M_{\parallel c}})$ with temperature. Inset gives the magnified view in the vicinity of the transition temperature.....	78
Figure 4.4: XAS spectra and XMCD signals at the Fe L _{2,3} -edges measured in the NI geometry without dc magnetic field bias measured at (a) 30 K, (b) 13.5 K, (c) 5.5 K and (d) 1.2 K. TH and OH in (a)-(d) stand for the tetrahedral and octahedral environments of Fe.....	81
Figure 4.5: XAS spectra and XMCD signals of Fe at the L _{2,3} -edges measured in the GI geometry without dc magnetic field bias ($H = 0$ T) at (a) 30 K, (b) 13.5 K, (c) 5.5 K and (d) 1.2 K. OH in (a)-(d) stands for octahedral environments of Fe.	82

Figure 4.6: XAS spectra and XMCD signals of Fe at the L _{2,3} -edges measured in the GI geometry with a biasing magnetic field of H = 0.5 T at (a) 30 K, (b) 13.5 K, (c) 5.5 K and (d) 1.2 K. OH in (a)-(d) stand for octahedral environments of Fe.....	83
Figure 4.7: Comparison of the variation of the component of moments (a) longitudinal ($M_{//c}$) and (b) transverse components ($M_{\perp c}$) calculated using XAS, XMCD signal and dc magnetization measurements on the single-crystal.....	86
Figure 4.8: XAS spectra of oxygen at the K-edge recorded in normal incidence geometry at 1.2 K.....	89
Figure 4.9: Schematic representation of splitting of 3dFe ³⁺ orbitals in BaFe ₁₂ O ₁₉ due to crystal field and exchange-correlation effects at 1.2 K.....	90
Figure 4.10: (a) XAS spectra at the O K-edge recorded in the NI geometry at various temperatures. (b) XAS spectra on a zoomed scale. Peaks A1, A2, A3 and A4 in (b) are labelled as t _{2g-bottom} , t _{2g-top} , e _{g-bottom} and e _{g-top} , respectively. All the curves in (a) are shifted along the y-axis by 0.025.....	92
Figure 5.1: (a) Variation of the ZFC and FC magnetization ($M_{\perp c}$) measured with dc field of 500 Oe applied perpendicular to the c-axis of the crystal. (b) Evolution of thermoremanent magnetization $M_{\perp c}(t)$ of a 1000 Oe FC crystal with time at 40 K. (c) Temperature dependence of real $\chi'_{\perp c}$ and imaginary $\chi''_{\perp c}$ parts of the ac susceptibility measured at 545 Hz with an ac field drive of 3 Oe applied perpendicular to the c-axis of the crystal.....	105
Figure 5.2: Temperature dependence of (a) real $\chi'_{\perp c}(\omega, T)$ and (b) imaginary $\chi''_{\perp c}(\omega, T)$ parts of ac susceptibility measured at various frequencies using an ac drive field of 3 Oe applied perpendicular to c-axis of the crystal; (c) depicts the lower temperature anomaly in $\chi''_{\perp c}(\omega, T)$ on a zoomed scale. The solid continuous lines through the data points in (c) are the fitted curves.....	108

Figure 5.3: Variation of the $\ln(\tau)$ with $1/T_f'$. The continuous solid line through the data points is the result of the least-squares fit for Vogel-Fulcher law using $\chi'(\omega, T)$ data.....	110
Figure 5.4: (a) Optimization of T_{SG}' . The minimum in (a) corresponds to the lowest variance with $T_{SG}' \sim 46.035$ K. (b) The least-squares fit for the power-law for $\ln(\tau)$ versus $\ln((T_f' - T_{SG}')/T_{SG}')$ plot using $\chi'(\omega, T)$ data.....	111
Figure 5.5: The $\ln(\tau)$ vs $1/T_f''$ plots for the (a) higher and (b) lower temperature transitions obtained from the $\chi_{\perp c}''(\omega, T)$ data. The solid line is the least-squares fit for the Vogel-Fulcher law for the two transition with the best fit parameters given along with the figures.	112
Figure 5.6: Optimization of T_{SG}'' for (a) the higher temperature and (b) the lower temperature transitions. The minimum in the two curves gives the optimised critical spin-glass transition temperatures which are indicated with an arrow in each figure.	113
Figure 5.7: The $\ln(\tau)$ vs $\ln((T_f'' - T_{SG}'')/T_{SG}'')$ plots for the power law type spin dynamics for the (a) higher and (b) lower temperature spin-glass transitions seen in $\chi_{\perp c}''(\omega, T)$ data. The best fit parameters are listed along with the figures.	114
Figure 5.8: Temperature dependence of real $\chi_{//c}'$ and imaginary $\chi_{//c}''$ part of ac susceptibility measured at frequency 200 Hz using ac field of 3 Oe applied along the c-axis of the crystal. Inset shows the variation of $\chi_{//c}'$ on the zoomed scale.	115
Figure 5.9: (a) Temperature dependence of the real $\chi_{//c}'$ part of ac susceptibility measured at various frequencies using an ac drive field of 3 Oe applied parallel to the c-axis of the crystal. All the curves in (a) are shifted by 0.012 emu/gOe $\times 10^{-2}$ along the y-axis and solid continuous line through the data points is a guide to the eyes. The $\ln(\tau)$ versus $1/T_f'$ plot for the two anomalies are shown in (b) for ~ 25 K and (c) for ~ 15 K transitions observed in $\chi_{//c}'$. The continuous solid line in (b) and (c) is least-squares fit for Vogel-Fulcher law.....	116

Figure 5.10: Optimization of T'_{SG} for (a) higher and (b) lower temperature transition seen in Fig. 5.9(a).....	117
Figure 5.11: The $\ln(\tau) \text{ vs } \ln((T_f - T'_{SG})/T'_{SG})$ plots along with the least-squares fit for the power law type spin dynamics for the (a) higher and (b) lower temperature transitions seen in $\chi'_{//c}(\omega, T)$ plots in Fig. 5.9(a). The best fit parameters are listed in the two figures.	118
Figure 5.12: Peak profile of 006 Bragg reflection at (a) 1.5 K, (b) 10 K, (c) 50 K, (d) 100 K, (e) 200 K and (f) 300 K: The continuous solid lines through the data points (filled circles) are the fits for the back-to-back two exponential functions.....	121
Figure 5.13: Peak profile of 101 Bragg reflection at (a) 1.5 K, (b) 10 K, (c) 50 K, (d) 100 K, (e) 200 K and (f) 300 K: The continuous solid lines through the data points (filled circles) are the fits for the back-to-back two exponential functions.....	121
Figure 5.14: Temperature dependence of the integrated intensity of 006 Bragg reflection (a) on the full scale and (b) on the magnified scale, obtained from the neutron diffraction data collected on the single-crystal of $\text{BaFe}_{12}\text{O}_{19}$. Broken lines in (a) and (b) are guide to the eyes, while the continuous solid line (black coloured) in (a) is the fit for the square of Brillouin function behaviour of μ	122
Figure 5.15: Temperature dependence of the integrated intensity of 101 Bragg reflection (a) on the full scale and (b) on the magnified scale, obtained from the neutron diffraction data collected on the single-crystal of $\text{BaFe}_{12}\text{O}_{19}$. Broken lines in (a) and (b) are guide to the eyes, while the continuous solid line (black coloured) in (a) is the fit for the square of Brillouin function behaviour of μ	123
Figure 5.16: Variation of C_P with temperature (T).	125
Figure 5.17: Variation of C_P/T with square of the temperature (T).	126
Figure 5.18: Variation of C_P/T^3 with temperature (T).	127

Figure 6.1: Temperature dependence of $\chi'_{//c}$ and $\chi''_{//c}$ measured at 700 Hz with an ac field drive of 3 Oe applied (a) parallel ($//$) to the c-axis and (b) perpendicular (\perp) to the c-axis of the BFO crystals. This figure has been reproduced from chapter 5. (c) This figure depicts the real χ' and imaginary χ'' parts of ac susceptibility measured at 700 Hz on powder samples at an ac drive field of 3 Oe. The continuous solid line through the data points (filled circles) is guide to the eyes. The dotted vertical lines indicate the first two transitions around 60 K and 25 K in the single-crystal sample.	137
Figure 6.2: (a) The evolution of ac susceptibility measured on powder sample at (a) 200 Hz with different ac drive fields and (b) comparison of ac susceptibility measured at 50 Hz using ac drive field of 3 Oe and 13 Oe. Successive curves in (a) are shifted vertically by 0.0001 emu/gOe for clarity. The continuous solid line through the data points is guide to the eyes.	138
Figure 6.3: Temperature dependence of the real part of ac susceptibility ($\chi'(\omega, T)$) of the powder sample at various frequencies. Successive curves are shifted vertically by 0.00015 emu/gOe for clarity. The solid lines (wine coloured) are guide to the eyes.	139
Figure 6.4: The $\ln(\tau)$ versus $1/T'_f$ plots for the (a) transverse and (b) longitudinal component of the spins. The continuous solid line through the data points is the Vogel-Fulcher fit.	140
Figure 6.5: Optimization of the spin-glass transition temperature (T'_{SG}) for (a) transverse and (b) longitudinal freezing.	141
Figure 6.6: The $\ln(\tau)$ vs $\ln(T'_f - T'_{SG})/T'_{SG}$ plots for the freezing of the (a) transverse and (b) longitudinal components of the spins. The continuous line through the data points is the power-law fit.	142
Figure 6.7: The $\chi'(\omega=200\text{Hz}, T)$ plot for powder sample under different dc biasing magnetic field. The solid lines through the data points are guide to the eyes.	145

Figure 6.8: The T-H diagram showing the Gabay-Toulouse (G-T) with $m = (2.0 \pm 0.04)$ and de Almeida-Thouless (A-T) with $m = (0.65 \pm 0.001)$ lines. The continuous line through the data points in the T-H plane is the least-squares fit to the Equation (6.1) and (6.2).....	145
Figure 6.9: Evolution of iso-thermoremanent ac susceptibility $\chi'(\omega = 200\text{Hz})$ with time at (a) 40 K and (b) 10 K under 50 Oe dc biasing field. The solid lines (black coloured) through the data points in (a) and (b) are Kohlrausch-Williams-Watt (KWW) stretched exponential equation fits.....	147
Figure 6.10: Evolution of isothermal remanent ac susceptibility $\chi'(\omega=200\text{Hz})$ with time at (a) 40K and (b) 10K under 50 Oe dc biasing field measured with intermediate quenching to 35K and 5K, respectively. The solid lines (black coloured) though the data points in (a) and (b) are guide to the eyes.....	150
Figure 7.1: Variation of magnetization with temperature measured for a BFO single-crystal for dc fields of (a) 500 Oe and (b) 1000 Oe applied parallel to the c-axis, and (c) 500 Oe applied perpendicular to the c-axis. The continuous line through the data points are guide to the eyes, whereas the dash-dot line in (c) shows the deviation from the linear behaviour of $M_{\perp c}$ for $200 < T < 300$ K. Panels (a) and (b) depict the results of both ZFC and FC measurements. Filled dots: FC and filled squares: ZFC	157
Figure 7.2: (a) Variation of χ' and χ'' with temperature measured at 700 Hz and 745 Hz for an ac drive field of 3 Oe applied (a) parallel and (b) perpendicular to the c-axis, respectively. The continuous lines through the data points are guide to the eyes while the dash-dotted lines for $\chi''(T)$ curves depict departure from the linear trend below 200 K. The dashed-dotted line in $\chi'_{//c}$ in (a) has been drawn to highlight the diffuse peak superimposed over the nearly linearly decreasing trend of the background value.....	158

Figure 7.3: C_p/T versus T^2 semi-log plot of $\text{BaFe}_{12}\text{O}_{19}$ without any dc field bias. Inset shows the variation of C_p with temperature.....	159
Figure 7.4: Variation of the integrated intensity of (a) 101 and (b) 006 Bragg reflections with temperature. The continuous solid line shows the Brillouin fits for the integrated intensities unlike the plotted lines through the data points are guide to the eyes.....	160
Figure 7.5: The evolution of the magnetic satellite peaks of BFO as a function of temperatures. The peak position of each satellite is marked with dotted lines. The continuous solid line through the data points is the deconvoluted profile.....	162
Figure 7.6: (a) The variation of the magnetic satellite peak positions, $(003 - \tau_1)$ and $(003 + \tau_2)$, with temperature. (b) The variation of the integrated intensity of the magnetic satellite peak at $(003 + \tau_2)$ position with temperature. The continuous solid lines are guide to the eyes.	163
Figure 7.7: (a) Variation of magnetization measured on zero-field cooled BFO powder at 100 Oe dc field. (b) Variation of χ' and χ'' with temperature measured on BFO powder at 700 Hz with an ac drive field of 3 Oe.....	166
Figure 7.8: (a) The variation of χ'' with temperature at 700 Hz. The continuous line below the peak in $\chi''(T)$ is the fitted curve for modelling the rising background value of $\chi''(T)$ above 100 K. The panel (b) depicts the rising background-subtracted peaks in $\chi''(T)$ at various frequencies.	167
Figure 7.9: (a) Variation of $\ln(\tau)$ versus $1/T_{SG}''$ while the solid line is the least-squares fit for Vogel-Fulcher law. (b) Optimization of T_{SG} and (c) depicts the $\ln(\tau) vs \ln((T_f'' - T_{SG}'')/T_{SG}'')$ plot along with the fit to the power-law type spin dynamics for $T_{SG} = 173.3$ K....	168
Figure 7.10: Variation of the dc magnetization of the zero-field cooled powder samples of $\text{BaFe}_{12}\text{O}_{19}$ measured during the warming cycle using a dc field of (a) 100 Oe, (b) 300 Oe, (c) 500 Oe, (d) 700 Oe, (e) 1000 Oe and (f) 1500 Oe. Arrows in (a)-(c) indicate the peak	

position. Inset in (d) depicts the 1 st derivative of magnetization in short temperature range.....	170
Figure 7.11: The T-H diagram showing the Gabay-Toulouse (G-T) line. The continuous line through the data points in the T-H plane is the least-squares fit to the Equation (6.2) in chapter 6.....	171
Figure 7.12: Evolution of iso-thermoremanent ac susceptibility $\chi'(\omega = 200\text{Hz})$ with time measured at 100 K under 50 Oe dc biasing field. The solid lines through the data points is Kohlrausch-Williams-Watt (KWW) stretched exponential equation fit.	171
Figure 7.13: Evolution of isothermal remanent ac susceptibility $\chi'(\omega = 200 \text{ Hz})$ with time measured at 100 K under 50 Oe dc biasing field measured with intermediate quenching to 95 K. The solid lines (black coloured) though the data points are guide to the eyes.	172
Figure 8.1: Neutron powder diffraction patterns recorded at various temperatures. Inset shows a zoomed around the forbidden of <i>003</i> peak position. All the curves are shifted with respect to each other by 0.1 (arbitrary units).	179
Figure 8.2: Isotropy subgroup tree for the magnetic space group P6 ₃ /mm'c'	184
Figure 8.3: The temperature variation of the (a) χ^2 and (b) R _M -factor obtained from the Rietveld analysis of neutron diffraction pattern collected at different temperatures.....	186
Figure 8.4: Observed (filled red circles), calculated (continuous black line), and difference (bottom green line) profiles obtained from the Rietveld refinement using neutron diffraction data at (a) 300K with Γ_{2a} , (b) 100K with $\Gamma_{2(a \oplus b)}$, (c) 50K with $\Gamma_2 \oplus \Gamma_3$, (d) 10K with $\Gamma_2 \oplus \Gamma_3$ and (e) 10K with $\Gamma_2 \oplus \Gamma_4$ for BaFe ₁₂ O ₁₉ . The vertical tick marks above the difference profile represent the Bragg peak positions (blue).	188
Figure 8.5: Magnetic spin configurations obtained from Rietveld refinement of the magnetic structure using irrep $\Gamma_{2(a \oplus b)}$ (a) longitudinal and (b) transverse components of the canted spins at 300 K and 250 K.....	189

Figure 8.6: Magnetic spin configurations obtained from Rietveld refinement of the magnetic structure using irrep $\Gamma_{2(a \oplus b)} \oplus \Gamma_3$. (a) longitudinal and (b) transverse components of the canted spins at 100 K, 50 K and 10 K.....	190
Figure 8.7: Kagome bilayer configuration linked via pyrochlore slabs [19].....	191
Figure 8.8: Observed (filled red circles), calculated (continuous black line), and difference (bottom green line) profiles obtained from Le-bail refinement using X-ray powder diffraction data at (a) 300 K, (b) 98 K, (c) 43 K (d) 23 K and (e) 13 K for $\text{BaFe}_{12}\text{O}_{19}$. The vertical tick marks above the difference profile represent the Bragg peak positions (blue).....	194
Figure 8.9: The evolution of the lattice parameters (a) ‘a’ and (b) ‘c’ with temperature: filled red circle is from the XRD data. Filled squares (blue colour) are from NPD data discussed in the section 8.4.3.1. The solid black line is the straight-line fit.....	195
Figure 8.10: Variation of the unit-cell volume with temperature: filled red circle is the XRD data, filled square (blue colour) is NPD data and solid black line is the fit for Debye Grüneisen equation. The broken line through the data points is the straight-line fit.....	196
Figure 8.11: Variation of magnetization with dc magnetic field.	197
Figure 8.12: Variation of volume strain ω_S (i.e., $\Delta V/V$) versus the square of spontaneous magnetization (M_S^2) obtained from temperature-dependent M-H loop.	198
Figure 9.1: (a) Unit cell of M-Type hexaferrite. (b) Polyhedra of the M-type unit cell ..	210
Figure 9.2: (a) Observed (red circles), calculated (black continuous line) and difference (bottom green line) profiles obtained after Rietveld refinement using $P6_3/mmc$ space group for $\text{Ba}_{(1-x)}\text{Ca}_x\text{Fe}_{12}\text{O}_{19}$ with (a) $x = 0$, (b) $x = 0.05$, (c) $x = 0.07$ and (b) $x=0.10$.The vertical bars represent the Bragg peak positions (blue).	212

Figure 9.3: Variation of (a) lattice parameters a , c , (b) unit cell volume V and (c) bond lengths Fe2-O1 and Fe2-O3 of $\text{Ba}_{(1-x)}\text{Ca}_x\text{Fe}_{12}\text{O}_{19}$ in the composition range $0 \leq x \leq 0.10$.

..... 213

Figure 9.4: Variation of the real (ϵ') and imaginary (ϵ'') parts of the dielectric permittivity of $\text{Ba}_{(1-x)}\text{Ca}_x\text{Fe}_{12}\text{O}_{19}$ at 300 kHz for different Ca^{2+} concentrations with $x =$ (a) 0, (b) 0.03, (c) 0.05, (d) 0.07 and (e) 0.10. Insets in (a)-(e) show the variation of ϵ' on the zoomed scale. 215

Figure 9.5: Variation of ac susceptibility of BCFO-x. 216

Figure 9.6: Variation of dielectric peak temperature (T_c) at 300 kHz of $\text{Ba}_{(1-x)}\text{Ca}_x\text{Fe}_{12}\text{O}_{19}$ as a function of Ca^{2+} concentration (x). Inset shows variation of glass transition temperature (T_g) as a function of Ca^{2+} concentration (x). 217

Figure 9.7: Variation of the real (ϵ') part of the dielectric permittivity of $\text{Ba}_{(1-x)}\text{Ca}_x\text{Fe}_{12}\text{O}_{19}$ for (a) $x = 0$, (b) $x = 0.03$, (c) $x = 0.05$, (d) $x = 0.07$ and (e) $x=0.10$ measured at various frequencies. 219

Figure 9.8: Non-Arrhenius behaviour of temperature dependence of relaxation time (τ) shown in $\ln(\tau)$ versus $1/T$ plot of $\text{Ba}_{(1-x)}\text{Ca}_x\text{Fe}_{12}\text{O}_{19}$ for (a) $x=0.05$, (b) 0.07 and (c) 0.10. The continuous line in insets (a)-(c) shows fit for $\ln(\tau)$ vs $\ln(T_{\max} - T_g/T_g)$ plot using power law dynamics $\tau = \tau_0(T_{\max} - T_g/T_g) - zv$ characteristic of a dipolar glass transition.

..... 220

Figure 9.9: Curie-Weiss fit (black solid line) to temperature dependent permittivity (red circles) of $\text{Ba}_{(1-x)}\text{Ca}_x\text{Fe}_{12}\text{O}_{19}$ for $x =$ (a) 0.00, (b) 0.03, (c) 0.05 (d) 0.70 and (e) 0.10.... 223

Figure 9.10: Variation of the magnitude of Curie-Weiss temperature $|\Theta_{cw}|$ of $\text{Ba}_{(1-x)}\text{Ca}_x\text{Fe}_{12}\text{O}_{19}$ with concentration (x). 224

Figure 9.11: Specific heat of $\text{BaFe}_{12}\text{O}_{19}$ as a function of temperature. Inset depicts the specific heat measured at different fields on a magnified scale. 224

Figure 9.12: $C_p/T^{3/2}$ vs $T^{3/2}$ plot where solid line represents the linear fit. Inset shows the non-Debye part of the specific heat at different magnetic fields. 225

Figure 9.13: Boson peak at ~ 2.7 K in $\text{BaFe}_{12}\text{O}_{19}$ 227

List of Tables

Table 1.1: Chemical formula, sequences of S, R, and T blocks, and space groups for different type of hexaferrites [12]	15
Table 1.2: magnetic models for M-type hexagonal ferrites	27
Table 2.1: Average chemical composition of BaFe ₁₂ O ₁₉ in atomic wt% obtained from the EDX analysis.	42
Table 2.2: Asymmetric unit of the hexagonal phase of BaFe ₁₂ O ₁₉ in space groups P6 ₃ /mmc.....	44
Table 2.3: Positional coordinates, lattice parameters, and agreement factors obtained by Rietveld refinement using powder XRD data of BaFe ₁₂ O ₁₉	45
Table 2.4: Positional coordinates, lattice parameters, and agreement factors obtained by Rietveld refinement using single-crystal XRD data of BaFe ₁₂ O ₁₉	46
Table 2.5: Comparison of our structural parameters with those reported in literature using single-crystal data.	46
Table 2.6: Interatomic distances (Å) obtained from Rietveld refinement powder XRD data of BaFe ₁₂ O ₁₉	47
Table 3.1: Energy of valleys and peaks in experimentally observed XMCD at the Fe L ₃ -edge for SrFe ₁₂ O ₁₉ [202].	57
Table 3.2: Energy of valleys and peaks at the Fe L ₃ -edge of calculated XMCD profiles of SrFe ₁₂ O ₁₉ [202].	59
Table 4.1: Energy of the valleys and peaks in the XMCD profile of Fe at the L ₃ -edge measured in NI geometry with H = 0 T.....	81
Table 4.2: Energy of valleys and peaks in the XMCD profile of Fe at the L ₃ -edge measured in GI geometry with H = 0 T	82

Table 4.3: Energy of valleys and peaks in the XMCD profile of Fe at the L ₃ -edge measured in GI geometry with H = 0.5 T	84
Table 4.4: Energy of the peaks t _{2g} and e _g bands observed at the O K-edge spectra recorded in NI geometry at various temperatures.....	93
Table 4.5: Energy of the t _{2g} and e _g bands observed at the O K-edge spectrum recorded in NI geometry at various temperatures.....	93
Table 4.6: Change in crystal field and exchange splitting energies with increase in temperature.	94
Table 5.1: List of parameters obtained after least-square fit to the Vogel-Fulcher and power-law dynamics to spin relaxation time.	128
Table 8.1: Basis vectors of the irreducible representation Γ_n for magnetic ion (Fe ³⁺) named as Fe1 at 2a Wyckoff site with fractional coordinate (x=0, y=0, z=0) and Fe2 at 2(b) Wyckoff site with fractional coordinate (x=0, y=0, z=0.25).....	181
Table 8.2: Basis vectors of the irreducible representation Γ_n for magnetic ion Fe3 and Fe4 at 4f _{iv} (4f1) site with fractional coordinate (x=1/3, y=2/3, z=0.0272) and at 4f _{vi} (4f2) site with fractional coordinate (x=1/3, y=2/3, z=0.1904), respectively.	181
Table 8.3(a): Basis vectors of the irreducible representation Γ_n for 6 out of 12 equivalent position of Fe5 at 12k site with fractional coordinate (x=0.168, y=2x, z=-0.1082).	182
Table 8.3(b): Basis vectors of the irreducible representation Γ_n for the remaining six equivalent positions of Fe5 at the 12k site with fractional coordinate (x=0.168, y=2x, z=-0.1082).	183
Table 9.1: Atomic positions obtained from the Rietveld refinement for different compositions.	211