

# Synthesis and characterization of Eu:CaTiO<sub>3</sub> nanopowder by using sol-gel method

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**Abstract-** The main work is to synthesize perovskite type of Eu doped CaTiO<sub>3</sub> nanopowder using sol-gel method. The as-synthesized sample was characterized by various highly developed techniques. The Structural analysis was calculated by using X-ray Diffraction Method (XRD). The functional groups were examined by using Fourier Transform Infrared Spectrophotometer (FTIR). The Surface structure was examined by Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM). The elemental configuration was calculated by Energy Dispersive X-Ray Spectroscopy (EDAX). The optical property was obtained by Ultra - Violet visible Infrared Spectroscopy (UV-vis DRS), and the Microstructure analysis were performed by using high resolution transmission electron spectroscopy (HRTEM). This technique is suitable, low price, simple, and successful in comparison to the familiar methods of the synthesis of nanopowders.

**Key words:** nanopowder,; Eu:CaTiO<sub>3</sub>; sol-gel

## 1. INTRODUCTION

TiO<sub>2</sub> has a broad variety of applications. They are UV filters for optics and packing equipment [1], humidity sensors [2], antireflection coatings for photovoltaic cells and passive solar collectors [3], transparent conductors [4], electrochromic displays [5], photo catalysts for refinement and treatment of water and air [6], gas sensors [7], anodes for lithium-ion batteries [8], and self cleaning coatings of windows and tiles [9], These oxides have some characteristics such as pyroelectrical, dielectrical, ferroelectric, photo restrictive, piezoelectric, magneto restrictive, and electro-optical characters [10, 11].

CaTiO<sub>3</sub>, being one of the member of perovskite Family. It has many usage such as dielectric resonators in wireless communication system [12], bio-medical, [13], equipment operating at microwave frequencies [14], photo catalytic [15]. Calcium Titanate doped with rare earth ions grant a variety of applications in the fields of opto-electronic devices [16-19]. It has lot of attraction among the researchers because of their friendly environment, luminescence properties and well-known chemical stability. They are used in field emission displays and white light emitting diode devices [19].

Number of methods have been suggested in literature for synthesizing Eu:CaTiO<sub>3</sub> powders. This type of perovskite was initially equipped by solid

state reaction at room temperatures 1623k [20]. In this method we perceive a number of problem, such as in-homogeneity, high –processing temperatures and infectivity by impurities with a non uniform particle sizes allocation [21]. These troubles can be condensed by wet chemical methods. So wet chemical methods have been employed to synthesize CaTiO<sub>3</sub> powders, such as a hydrothermal process [22], sol-gel [23], co-precipitation [24], organic-inorganic solution technique [25] and combustion method [26]. The optical performance depends preparation method, structural organization and heat behavior conditions [27].

Sol-gel procedure is a positive method that offers relative low price, uniform, and high clarity of the ceramics. In the present study, we have reported about the Eu:CaTiO<sub>3</sub> nanopowder synthesized by using sol-gel technique. The sample was analyzed by using XRD, FTIR, SEM, EDAX, UV and HRTEM

## 2. EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

### 2.1 Materials used

The chemicals used in this synthesis were Calcium chloride (CaCl<sub>2</sub>) as a resource for calcium, Titanium (IV) isopropoxide (Ti(OC<sub>3</sub>H<sub>7</sub>)<sub>4</sub>) as a resource for titanium, Europium di-oxide (Eu<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) as a resource for europium, citric acid, ethanol, HNO<sub>3</sub> and ultra pure water were the solvents.

## 2.2 Sample preparation

The sample were synthesized by using sol-gel method. For this synthesis a solution of Ca: Ti: Citric acid: ethanol mole ratio 0.8: 1: 1:1 was magnetic stirred for an hour. After that 0.2 mole of Eu<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> solution was prepared by adding Eu<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> to a 10:1 mixture of ethanol and HNO<sub>3</sub> and stirred for 1 hour. Then both the solutions were added and allowed to stir and evaporated at 70°C for 2 hours. Then it was dried in a hot plate for overnight and the solvent was removed by heating to at 100°C. The resulting powder was annealed at different temperatures like 500°C , 700°C and 900°C for 2 hours in a muffle furnace. Then the as-synthesized samples were crushed in to powder to form Eu:CaTiO<sub>3</sub> nanopowder.

## 2.3 Characterization of Eu : CaTiO<sub>3</sub> nanopowder

The as-synthesized Eu : CaTiO<sub>3</sub> samples were characterized by various superior techniques. The Structural analysis were monitored by X-ray Diffractometry (XRD) in the 2θ range from 5° to 90°. The FTIR micro-analysis were carried out and it covers the range of wavenumbers from 400 to 4000 cm<sup>-1</sup>. The Surface Morphology were measured using Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM). The Composition was studied using Energy Dispersive X-Ray Spectroscopy(EDAX), The Optical band gap was recorded using Ultra - Violet visible Infrared Spectroscopy (UV-Vis) from 200-900 nm, and the Microstructure investigation were analyzed by using High Resolution Transmission Electron Spectroscopy(HRTEM).

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

### 3.1 X-ray diffraction analysis

The structure and crystallite size was investigated by X-ray diffraction (XRD) using Bruker diffractometer within the 2θ range of 5° to 90° using CuKα as X-ray source (λ=1.5406Å). The following calculations were done.The particle size of the nanopowder was calculated based on Scherrer's equation [28], the Scherrer's equation is described as

$$D = \frac{K\lambda}{\beta \cos\theta} \text{ (nm)} \text{-----Eq.(1)}$$

Where, D : mean crystallite size, K : shape factor taken as 0.94, λ : wavelength of the incident beam, β : full width at half maximum and θ : Bragg angle. The Dislocation density is calculated by:

$$\delta = \frac{1}{D^2} \text{ lines/m}^2 \text{-----Eq.(2)}$$

The strain is calculated by using the equation:

$$\eta = \frac{\beta \cos\theta}{4} \text{-----Eq.(3)}$$

The Micro strain is calculated by using the equation:

$$s = \frac{d}{D\sqrt{12}} \text{-----Eq.(4)}$$

Parameters	700 °C	900 °C
Max peak (2θ)	33.31	33.15
FWHM (β) (degree)	0.269	0.2297
Interplanar spacing (d) (Å)	2.7563	2.7693
Particle size (D) (nm)	31.634	37.0469
Strain η	1.1737 E-3	1.0022 E-3
Dislocation density (ρ) 1/m <sup>2</sup>	0.9992 E+15	0.7286 E+15
Micro strain (s)	2.5152 E-3	2.15788 E-3

Table 1: Parameters of Eu doped CaTiO<sub>3</sub> nanopowder in a sol-gel method

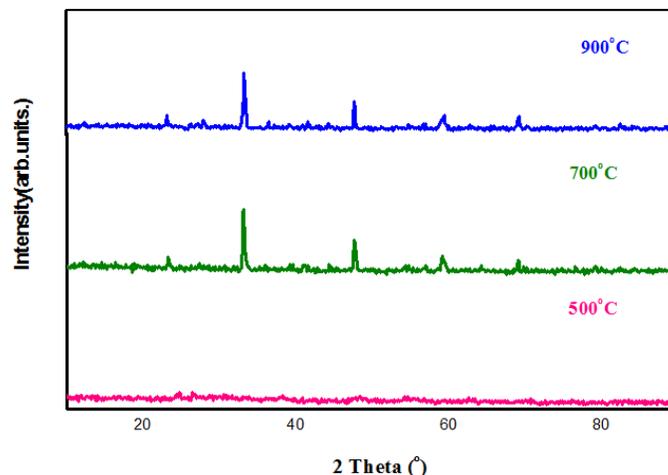


Fig.1. XRD pattern of Eu:CaTiO<sub>3</sub> nanopowder annealed at different temperature

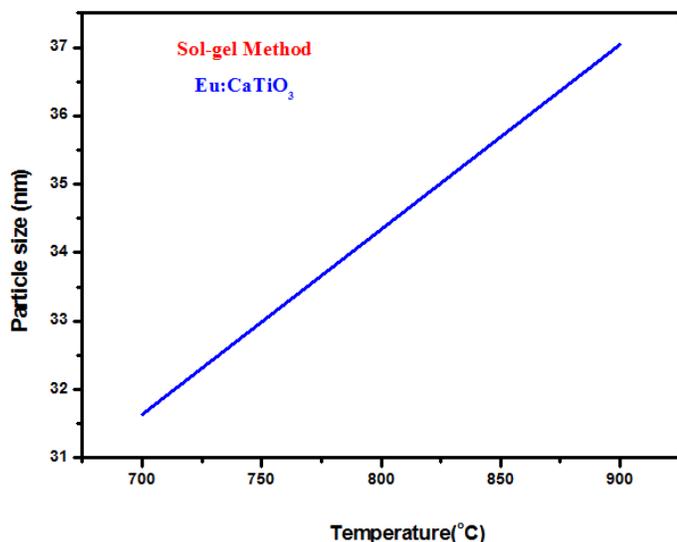
The increase of temperature leads to the CaTiO<sub>3</sub> phase. Comparing the annealing temperature, at 900°C the sample displayed a superior crystallization. Above 1580 °C the formation of CaTiO<sub>3</sub> is Cubic ,amid 1500 °C to 1580 °C it is tetragonal, below 1500 °C it is orthorhombic[29,30]. All the peaks can be assigned to the orthorhombic

organization is shown in fig.1 . Increase of temperature cause an increase in the particle size is shown in fig.2. This performance can be linked with

Lattice parameters	JCPDS (88-0790)	700°C	900 °C
a (Å)	5.378	5.5126	5.5380
b(Å)	5.444	5.6105	5.50412
c(Å)	7.637	7.8213	7.8244

the aggregates making and nuclei formation [31] . CaTiO<sub>3</sub> phase was conformed by the comparison between the XRD patterns with the JCPDS card no. 88-0790.

**Table 2: Lattice Parameters of Eu:CaTiO<sub>3</sub> nanopowder synthesized by sol-gel method.**

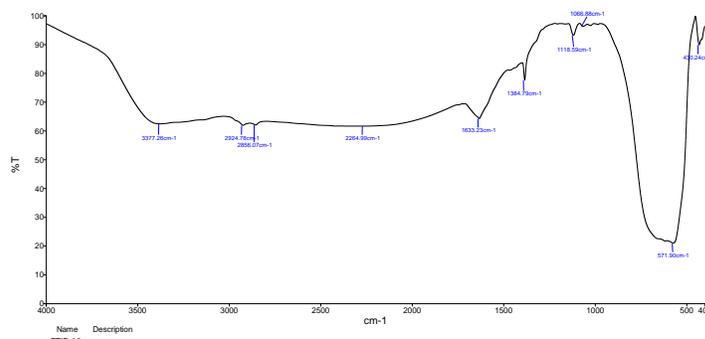


**Fig.2. Particle sizes as a function of heat treatment of Eu:CaTiO<sub>3</sub> nanopowder synthesized by sol-gel method**

### 3.2 FTIR Analysis

FTIR analysis were performed for the powder sample annealing temperature at 900 °C . Fig.3 shows the FTIR spectra of Eu:CaTiO<sub>3</sub> nanopowder prepared by sol-gel method. Table 3 gives the FTIR analysis of Eu :CaTiO<sub>3</sub> nanopowder. The band at 3377.26cm<sup>-1</sup> was related to the super position of the vibration band of the hydroxyl group and the stretching vibration of the adsorbed water molecule. The C-H stretching band is occurred at 2924.78cm<sup>-1</sup> . The COOH stretching band is occurred at 2856.07cm<sup>-1</sup> . The C ≡ C stretching band is occurred

at 2264.99cm<sup>-1</sup> The band at 1633.23 cm<sup>-1</sup> are due to symmetric stretching vibrational modes of metal-oxygen bond. The C-H bending band is occurred at 1384.79cm<sup>-1</sup> The C-O stretching band is occurred at 1118.59cm<sup>-1</sup> and 1066.88 cm<sup>-1</sup> A band around 571.90cm<sup>-1</sup> and 430.24cm<sup>-1</sup> are caused by stretching vibration due to interactions produced between the oxygen and the metal bonds..



**Fig.3 . FTIR spectra of Eu : CaTiO<sub>3</sub> nanopowder prepared by sol-gel method**

Wave number cm <sup>-1</sup>	Functional group	Types of vibrations	Intensity	Class of Compounds
3377.26	O-H	Stretching, H-bonded	Strong, Broad	Alcohols
2924.78	C-H	Stretching	Strong	Alkane
2856.07	COOH	Stretching	Strong	Enols
2264.99	C ≡ C	Stretching	Variable	Alkynes
1633.23	C=C	Stretching	Variable	Alkenes
1384.79	C-H	Bending	Strong	Methyl groups
1118.59	C-O	Stretching	Strong	Carbonyl groups
1066.88	C-O	Stretching	Strong	Carbonyl groups
571.90	C-Cl	Stretching	Strong	Alkyl Halide
430.24	C-Cl	Stretching	Strong	Alkyl Halide

**Table 3 FTIR analysis of Eu :CaTiO<sub>3</sub> nanopowder prepared by sol-gel method**

### 3.3 Surface morphology analysis

Fig.4 shows the SEM analysis of Eu : CaTiO<sub>3</sub> nanopowder synthesized by sol-gel method. The product show foamy and porous with agglomerated particles. The particles are nearly spherical in shape.

The introduction of Eu ions does not change the  $\text{CaTiO}_3$  morphology.

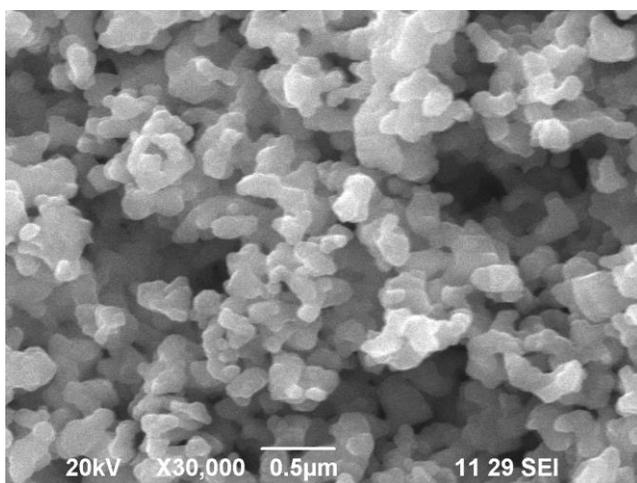
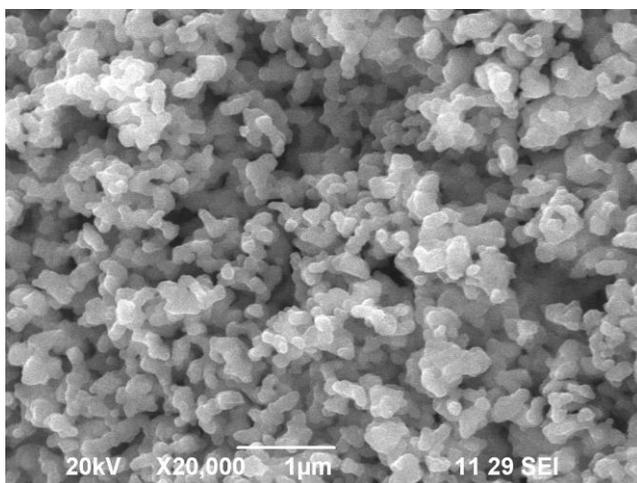
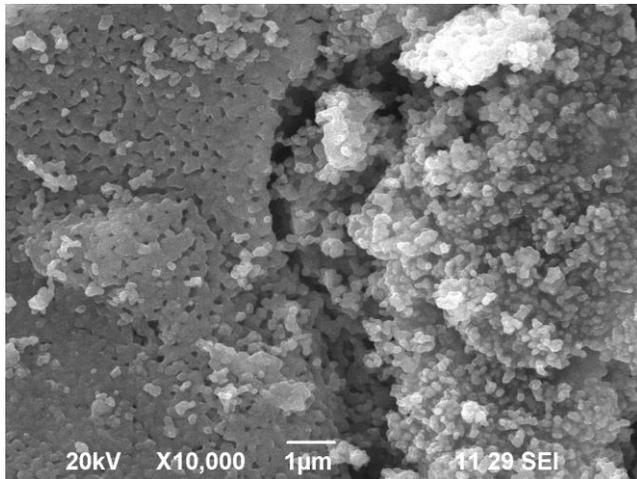


Fig.4 .SEM analysis of  $\text{Eu}:\text{CaTiO}_3$  nanopowder prepared by sol-gel method

### 3.4 Energy dispersive x-ray spectroscopy analysis

The EDAX measurement of the  $\text{Eu}:\text{CaTiO}_3$  nanopowder prepared by sol-gel method is shown in Fig.5. The EDAX examination indicated that the nanostructures are composed of Ca, Ti, Eu and O atoms and it exhibits clear peaks of only Ca, Ti, Eu and O elements, whereas no additional peaks were established, which means that the  $\text{Eu}:\text{CaTiO}_3$  powder is exempted from impurities.

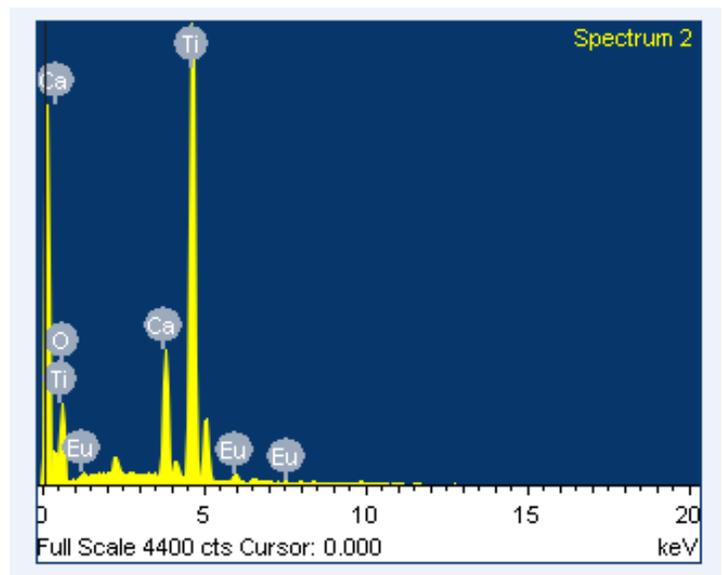


Fig .5. EDAX analysis of  $\text{Eu}:\text{CaTiO}_3$  nanopowder prepared by sol-gel method

Table 4 shows that the atomic and weight percentage of Eu doped  $\text{CaTiO}_3$  powder prepared by sol-gel method.

Table 4 : EDAX analysis of  $\text{Eu}:\text{CaTiO}_3$  nanopowder prepared by sol-gel method

Element	Series	Weight %	Atomic %
O	K	44.17	70.47
Ca	K	17.97	13.07
Ti	K	35.02	15.98
Eu	L	2.84	0.48

### 3.5 Ultra - violet visible infrared spectroscopy analysis

The optical properties of Eu:CaTiO<sub>3</sub> nanopowder prepared by sol-gel method was analyzed by UV-VIS diffuse reflectance spectroscopy in the wavelength range of 200 – 900 nm.

UV absorption spectra of Eu :CaTiO<sub>3</sub> nanopowder was obtained from the diffuse reflectance data by using the Kubelka-Munk function[32]. The optical band gap energy was 2.99eV corresponds to optical absorption edge of 381 nm . Fig .6. shows the Optical band gap calculation of Eu:CaTiO<sub>3</sub> nanopowder

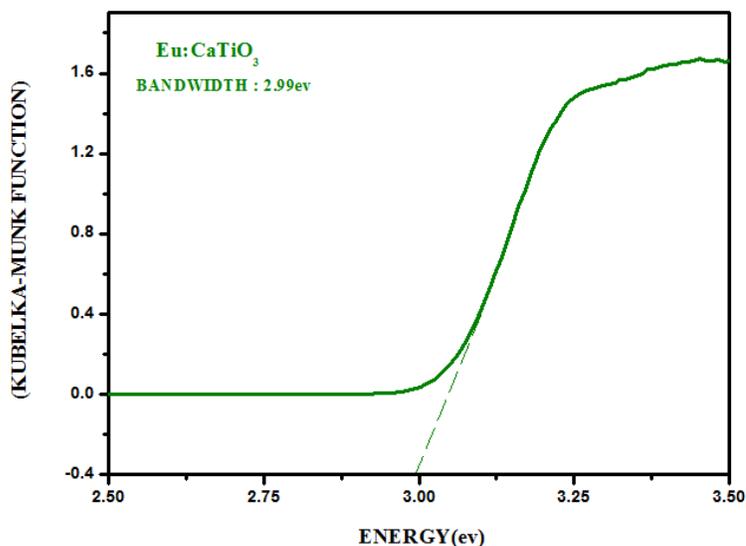


Fig .6. Optical band gap calculation of Eu :CaTiO<sub>3</sub> nanopowder prepared by sol-gel method

### 3.6 High resolution transmission electron microscopy

The microstructure of Eu :CaTiO<sub>3</sub> nanopowder prepared by sol-gel method was examined by HRTEM. Fig 7a is the high –resolution image of Eu :CaTiO<sub>3</sub> nanopowder which exhibits the clear lattice fringes. The interlayer spacing 0.15nm is corresponds to (204) plane of CaTiO<sub>3</sub>.

Fig.7b shows the selected area electron diffraction (SAED) pattern of Eu :CaTiO<sub>3</sub> nanopowder calcined at 900°C. The circular bright continuous rings in the SAED pattern reveals the fact that particles were nanosized and confirmed the crystalline nature of nanopowder. Fig.7c shows the grains of the of Eu :CaTiO<sub>3</sub> nanopowder look like sphere.

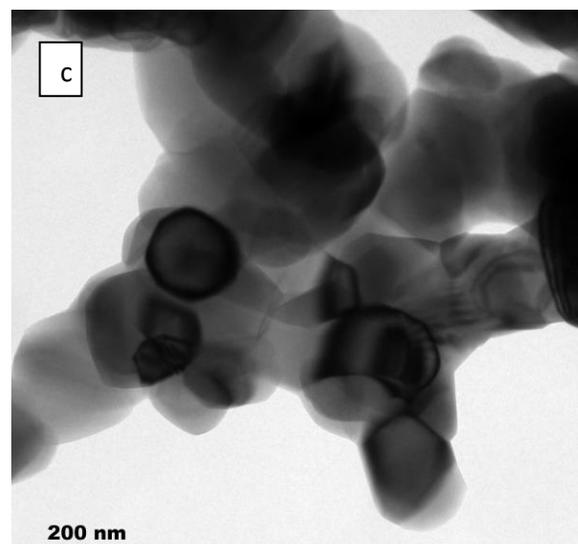
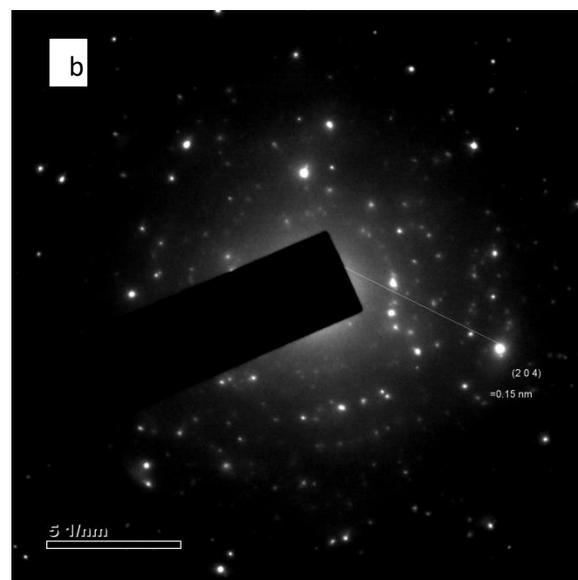
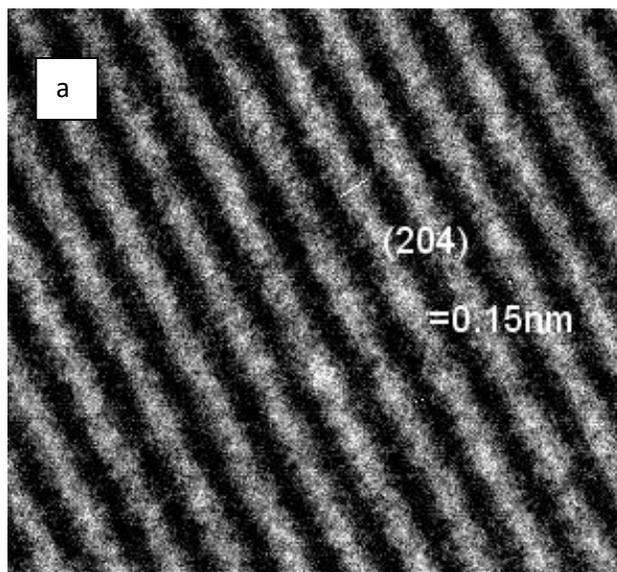


Fig . 7 a,b,c: HRTEM micrographs of Eu:CaTiO<sub>3</sub> nanopowder prepared by sol-gel method calcined at 900°C

#### 4. CONCLUSION:

Eu:CaTiO<sub>3</sub> nanopowder prepared by using sol-gel method at low temperature calcinations. The sample was characterized by various advanced techniques. Particles were sphere-shaped and the Particle size was from 31-37nm, and the lattice parameters are a=5.523(Å), b=5.607(Å), c=7.8013(Å). The band width is 2.99ev. The interlayer spacing 0.15nm is corresponds to (204) plane of CaTiO<sub>3</sub>. The functional group, surface morphology and compositional analysis were carried out using FTIR, SEM and EDAX respectively.

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