



Highly effective aldose reductase mimetics: Microwave-assisted catalytic transfer hydrogenation of D-glucose to D-sorbitol with magnetically recoverable aminomethylphosphine-Ru(II) and Ni(II) complexes

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ABSTRACT

The novel Ru(II) and Ni(II) complexes of aminomethylphosphine ligands supported on Fe₃O₄@SiO₂ (core@shell) surface have been synthesized with Schlenk technique and characterized with Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM), Energy-Dispersive X-Ray Spectroscopy (EDX), Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM), X-Ray Diffraction Spectroscopy (XRD), Fourier-Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FT-IR), Ultraviolet-Visible Spectroscopy (UV-Vis.), Thermogravimetric Analysis/Differential Thermal Analysis/ Differential Thermogravimetry (TG/DTA/DTG) and elemental analysis techniques. Besides, the synthesized complexes were tried as a catalyst in the transfer hydrogenation of D-glucose to D-sorbitol in isopropyl alcohol under microwave power at 150 °C for 1 h reaction time. K₂CO₃ was used as a base source in the catalysis. High-Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) fitted Refractive Index Detector (RID) was used for the quantitative analyses of the catalytic tests. The complexes can be repeatedly usable and magnetically recoverable in the catalytic transfer hydrogenation of D-glucose to D-sorbitol. The complexes are also chemically selective and stable in the catalysis medium. In the recycling experiments, Ru(II) complexes were filtered and washed with isopropyl alcohol (IPA), dried and used again for the other catalytic cycles. Especially Ru(II) complexes showed the best catalytic properties, with over 91% selectivity on over 98% conversions under microwave power.

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Introduction

There has been growing interest in synthesizing the metal complexes of phosphine derivatives since those are very active in various catalytic applications. Thus, the functionalized aminoalkylphosphines and their metal complexes are critical research areas for chemists. Ditertiary aminoalkylphosphines (R₂PCH₂)₂NR can be synthesized with the reaction of a phosphonium salt derivative [R₂P(CH₂OH)₂]Cl and a primary amine R'NH₂ under N₂ atmosphere using the Schlenk technique. The chelated structured phosphine derivatives increase the stability and the catalytic reactivities of the metal complexes in the synthesis of many organic compounds [1,2,11-15,3-10]. Besides, the

enantioselective organic products can be produced efficiently using a type of asymmetric aminophosphine-metal complex. The multidentate phosphine-metal complexes having excellent steric and electronic properties and π-back bonding properties can increase the catalytic efficiencies of the oxidation or reduction reactions. π-acceptor phosphine ligands can easily form π-back bonding with metal centers. Thus, these types of complexes can show unique catalysis properties and mechanisms. Because of these chemically flexible structures, the organic substrates and the reactive species can easily bond and change the molecular structure of the chelated metal-ligand complexes in the catalysis mechanism [6,16-23].

Fe₃O₄ (magnetite) nanoparticles have unique chemical and physical properties with having high surface area. Various inorganic-organic compounds can easily be bond onto the surface of Fe₃O₄ that gives excellent properties in many applications. Due to the unique chemical, physical and magnetic properties, the mag-

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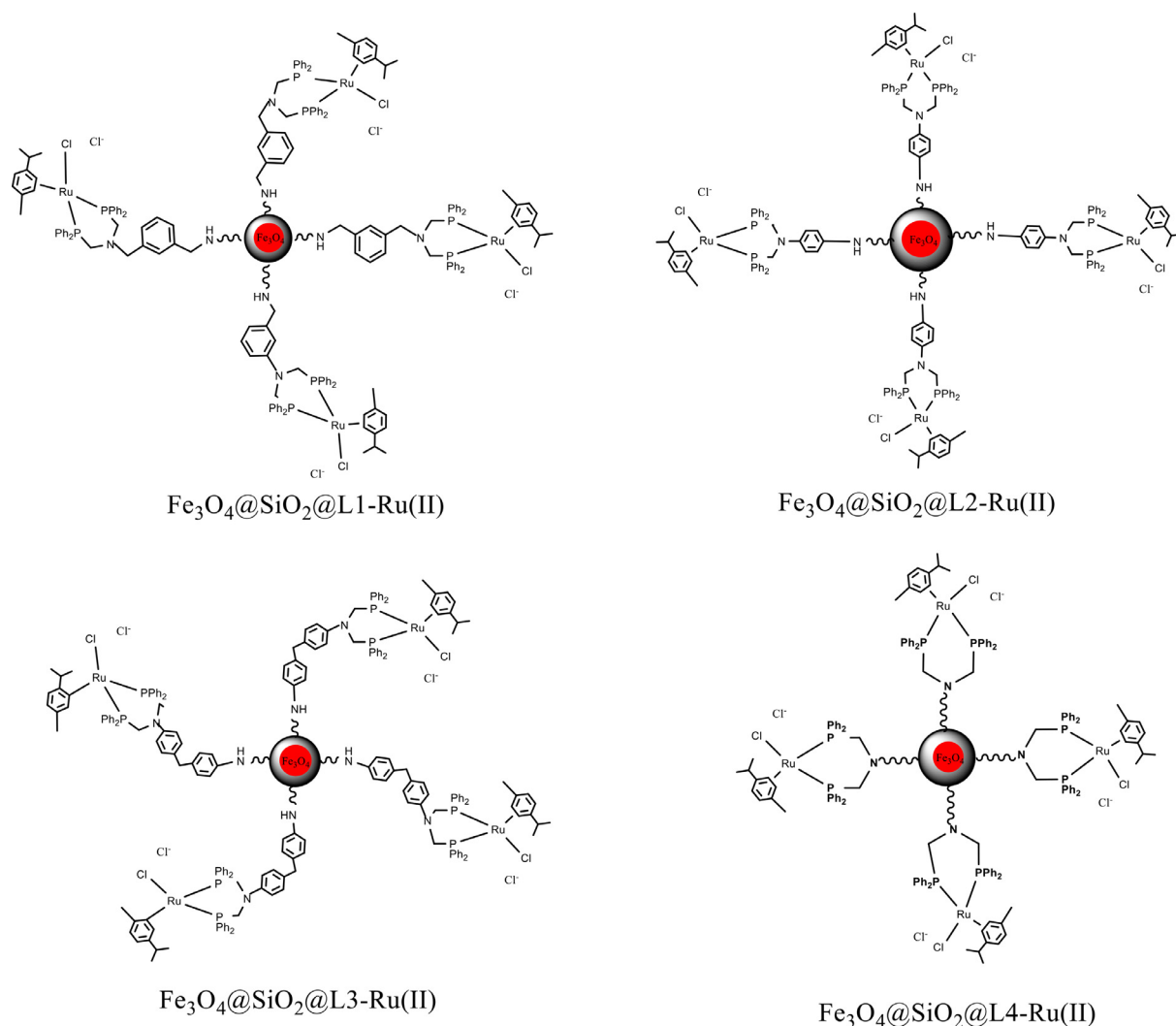


Fig. 1. Possible structures of the magnetite@silica supported aminomethylphosphine-Ru(II) e complexes.

netite nanoparticles can be used in chemical, physical, and biological applications. It can be used in medicine, such as, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), and it can be used for the soil or water treatment from pollutants. Multifunctional nanomaterials can also show both optical and magnetic properties, due to their unique properties. For example, some nanocomposites can be used to imaging the real-time targeting fluorescence microscopy in blood vessels via control of the external magnetic field. The coating on the surface of magnetic-nano particles with silica provides unique advantages because of having excellent stability and activity in severe chemical and physical conditions. SiO_2 covering strengthens the nano-core structure in the severe chemical and physical conditions. Besides, if the silica surface is activated, the many types of ligands and the metal complexes can easily bond to the silica surface [23-32].

Sorbitol that annual production is over 700.000 tones/year is used in many different applications, like building blocks to synthesize fine chemicals such as ascorbic acid (intermediate in the synthesis of vitamin C). It is also used as an additive in the food, cosmetics, and paper industries. Sorbitol is also utilized as feedstock for hydrolysis-hydrogenation processes in order to produce isosorbide and useful polyols such as triols, tetrols, glycerol, ethylene glycol and 1,2-propanediol. Most of the sorbitol processing at an industrial scale is performed by catalytic hydrogenation of D-Glucose, a cheap raw material produced from starch and sucrose,

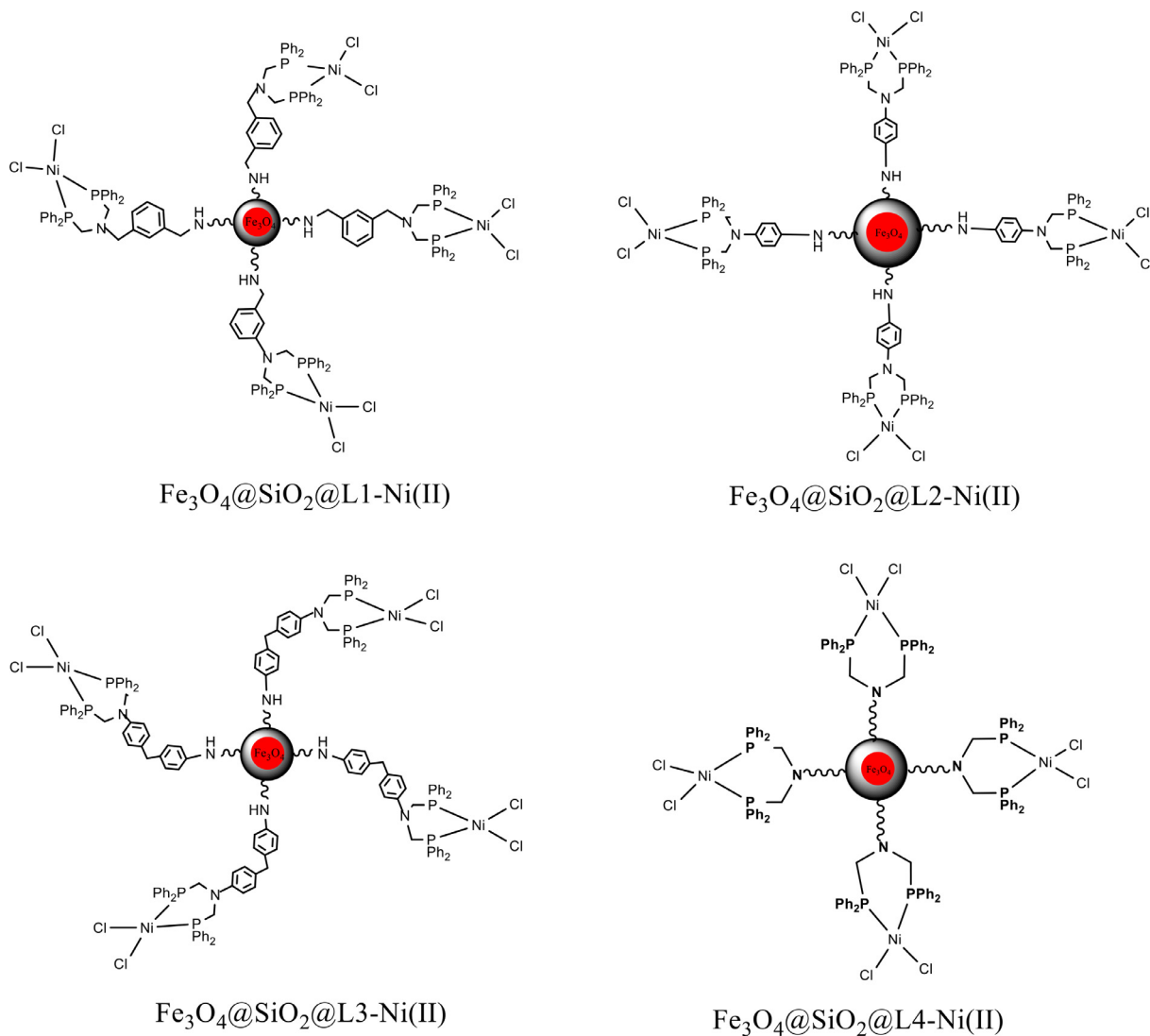
using Raney-nickel catalysts. Both noble metals (Ru, Rh, Pd, and Pt) and non-noble metals (Fe, Ni, Cu, or Co) have been used as active phases in hydrogenation reactions. Nickel-based catalysts have achieved a good piece of attention according to their low cost and moderate to good catalytic activity.

Nevertheless, nickel-based catalysts are susceptible to show deactivation after recycling due to leaching of the active nickel into the reaction media, sintering of the active metal and poisoning of metallic nickel surface attributed to organic by products of the reaction. The current trend consists of the preparation of ruthenium-based catalysts, which show catalytic activities per-mass of active metal 20–50 times higher than nickel catalysts. However, the high price of noble metals is the main drawback. Thus, the development of novel bimetallic nickel-based catalysts with comparable high activity to noble metal catalysts still remains a technological challenge. Noteworthy efforts were carried out to enhance the catalytic activity of nickel-based catalysts in the catalytic conversion of D-Glucose into sorbitol [33,34,43-45,35-42].

In this study, the novel magnetically recoverable and repeatedly usable, selective and stable Ru(II) and Ni(II) complexes of aminomethylphosphine ligands supported on $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@SiO_2$ surface have been synthesized and characterized. Especially, Ru(II) complexes showed the best catalytic activities over 91% selectivity on over 98% conversions using isopropyl alcohol in 1 h under microwave power.

Table 1
Important FT-IR vibration modes.

Compound	FT-IR (cm^{-1})							
	OH/NH	ArC-H	RC-H	ArC=C	P-Ph/C-N	Si-O	M-P	M-Cl
L1	3409	3000	2889	1623	1425	1069	-	-
L2	3402	2916	2928	1610	1420	1066	-	-
L3	3411	2986	2905	1608	1423	1065	-	-
L4	3404	2995	2870	1629	1420	1063	-	-
L1-Ru(II)	3198	3012	2895	1623	1405	1049	545	439
L2-Ru(II)	3227	2954	2890	1624	1405	1051	549	440
L3-Ru(II)	3195	2988	2902	1621	1405	1048	541	431
L4-Ru(II)	3337	3975	2895	1624	1395	1059	539	436
L1-Ni(II)	3357	2920	2895	1624	1410	1099	532	446
L2-Ni(II)	3354	2979	2901	1630	1391	1066	537	440
L3-Ni(II)	3333	2978	2887	1630	1387	1060	541	416
L4-Ni(II)	3371	2989	2892	1624	1393	1060	541	420

**Fig. 2.** Possible structures of the magnetite@silica supported aminomethylphosphine-Ni(II) complexes.

2. Experimental

2.1. Characterization techniques

FT-IR spectra were obtained using KBr pellets on Perkin-Elmer Spectrum 400 system in the range $4000\text{--}400\text{ cm}^{-1}$. The thermal properties of the ligands were investigated on a SII thermal system under a nitrogen atmosphere at a heating rate of $10\text{ }^\circ\text{C}/\text{min}$

in the range $30\text{--}1000\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$. The surface morphology and EDX analysis of the nanocomposite ligands and their complexes were evaluated using Zeiss Evo LS10 SEM attached with Bruker Quantax EDS. TEM images were taken with the Hitachi HT7700 instrument. X-ray diffraction (XRD) patterns were recorded on the PANalytical Xprt pro. UV-Visible reflectance spectra were recorded at solid state using Hitachi U-3900 Spectrophotometer attached with solid state reflectance apparatus. The microwave syntheses were done in

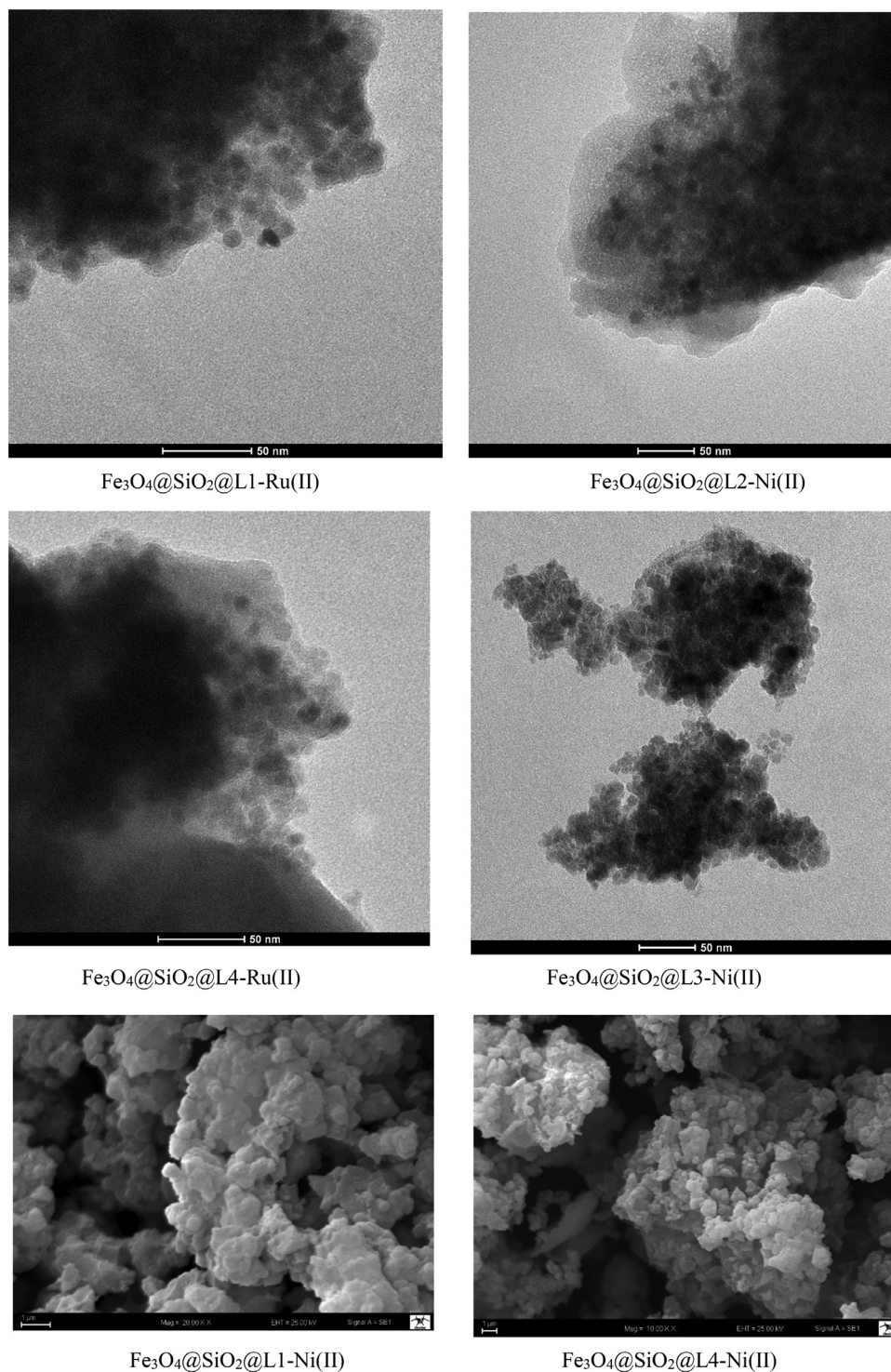


Fig. 3. TEM and SEM images of the complexes.

quartz vessels closed with teflon covers using the Milestone Start-Synth instrument with temperature control. Shimadzu HPLC LC-20AD, HPLC fitted with Inertsil NH₂ column and RID-10A was used for the catalytic experiments. Calibration standards of D-glucose, D-sorbitol, D-mannitol and D-fructose were prepared in acetonitrile and injected into HPLC. External calibration curves were drawn by the instrument software with the obtained data for all sugars. This system was controlled, and data processed, with Prominence software. The separation was achieved on a Carbosep Coregel Inertsil NH₂ column (300 × 7.8 mm). All samples and standards were

passed through PVDF 0.45 μm syringe filters (Teknokroma) prior to injection. Each run was completed within 30 min.

2.2. Synthesis of Ru(II) and Ni(II) complexes of magnetite-silica supported aminomethylphosphine ligands

Fe₃O₄@SiO₂(CH₂)₃NHRN(CH₂PPh₂)₂ type aminomethylphosphine ligands were synthesized according to our previous study [23]. Firstly, 2 mmol FeCl₃•6H₂O (0.5516 g, 98%), 10 mmol NaOAc (0.8286 g, 99%) and 2 mmol Na₃Cit (0.5912 g, 99.5%) were

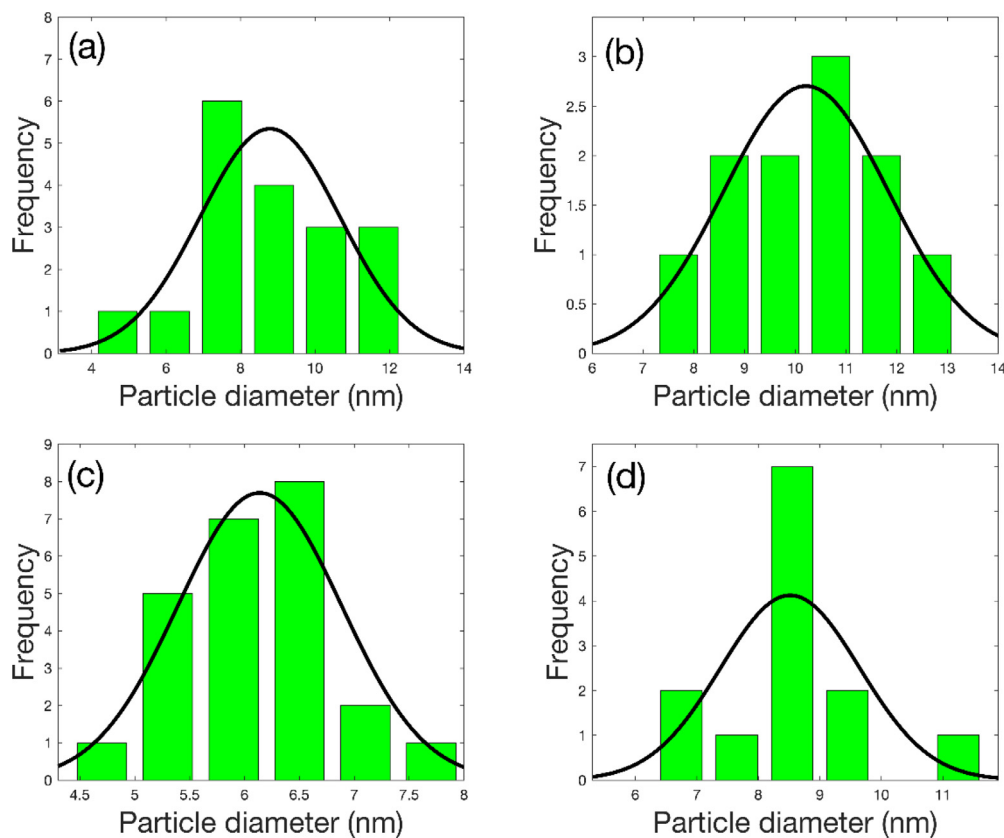


Fig. 4. The particle size distribution histograms of the selected complexes
 a: $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{L1-Ru(II)}$, b: $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{L1-Ni(II)}$, c: $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{L3-Ni(II)}$, d: $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{L4-Ru(II)}$.

dissolved in 20 mL ethylene glycol in the quartz tube of the microwave oven and stirred for 1 h at room temperature. The color of the solution changed from yellow to red. The second and the shorter microwave process improved by us; the quartz tube was closed with teflon cover and microwaved at 200 °C for 1 h with power controlled instrument set to max. 600 watt. The obtained magnetic nano-core Fe_3O_4 was filtered and washed with EtOH and dried at 60 °C for 12 h. In the second, 0.5 g nano Fe_3O_4 was dispersed in 100 mL EtOH for 10 min in the ultrasonic bath, 5 mL NH_3 solution (26%) was added to this dispersion and stirred for 15 min. 0.5 mL Triton X-100 and 10 mL tetraethyl orthosilicate (TEOS) was dropped to final dispersion and stirred for 12 h at room temperature. The obtained $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2$ was filtered and washed with EtOH: H_2O (1:1) solution. Thirdly, 0.5 g obtained $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2$ nanocomposite was added to in the appropriate amount of toluene and ultrasonicated for 10 min. This solution was treated with 5 mmol (3-aminopropyl)triethoxysilane (APTES) (1.18 mL, 99%) and refluxed for 12 h. The obtained amino-substituted nanocomposite was filtered and washed with EtOH and diethyl ether. The precipitation was dried at 60 °C for 12 h. Finally, 0.5 g obtained $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2$ nanocomposite was added to an appropriate amount of toluene and ultrasonicated for 10 min. This solution was treated with 5 mmol (3-chloropropyl)triethoxysilane (APTES) (1.27 mL, 95%) and refluxed for 12 h under nitrogen atmosphere. The obtained chloro-substituted nanocomposite was filtered and washed with EtOH and diethyl ether. The precipitation was dried at 60 °C for 12 h.

0.25 g $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{OSi}(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{NHRNH}_2$ type primary amine was dispersed in 25 mL EtOH. 2 mmol phosphonium salt $[\text{PPh}_2(\text{CH}_2\text{OH})_2]\text{Cl}$ and 1 mL NEt_3 was added to this solution and refluxed for 90 min under a nitrogen atmosphere using vacuum manifold in Schlenk flask. After that, the liquid phase was de-

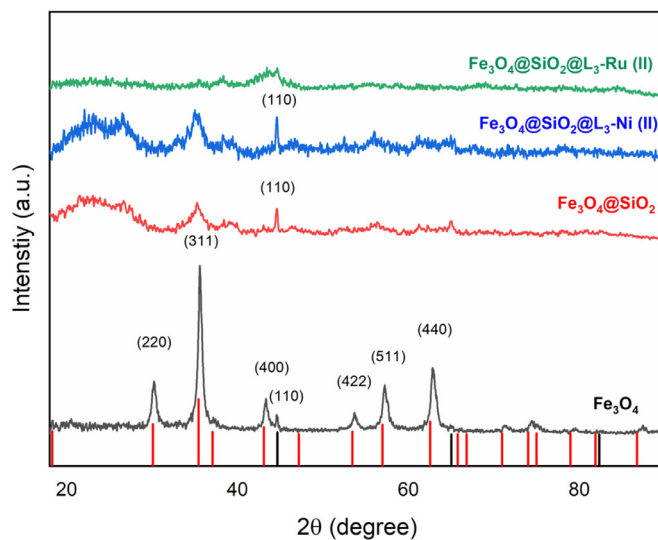


Fig. 5. XRD patterns of Fe_3O_4 , $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2$, $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{L3-Ni(II)}$ and $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{L3-Ru(II)}$ complexes.

cantated while the solid phase was kept using a magnet. The precipitation was washed with three portions of EtOH. 1 mmol (0,6313 g) $[\text{Ru}(\text{p-cymene})\text{Cl}_2]_2$ and 2 mmol (0,2592 g) $[\text{NiCl}_2]$ was added to each of the obtained $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{NHRN}(\text{CH}_2\text{PPh}_2)_2$ type magnetic nano-composite supported aminomethylphosphine ligands dispersed in 25 mL EtOH. The mixture was refluxed for 6 h under a nitrogen atmosphere. The obtained nanocomposite supported bis(diphenylphosphinomethyl)aminoalkyl-Ru(II) and Ni(II)

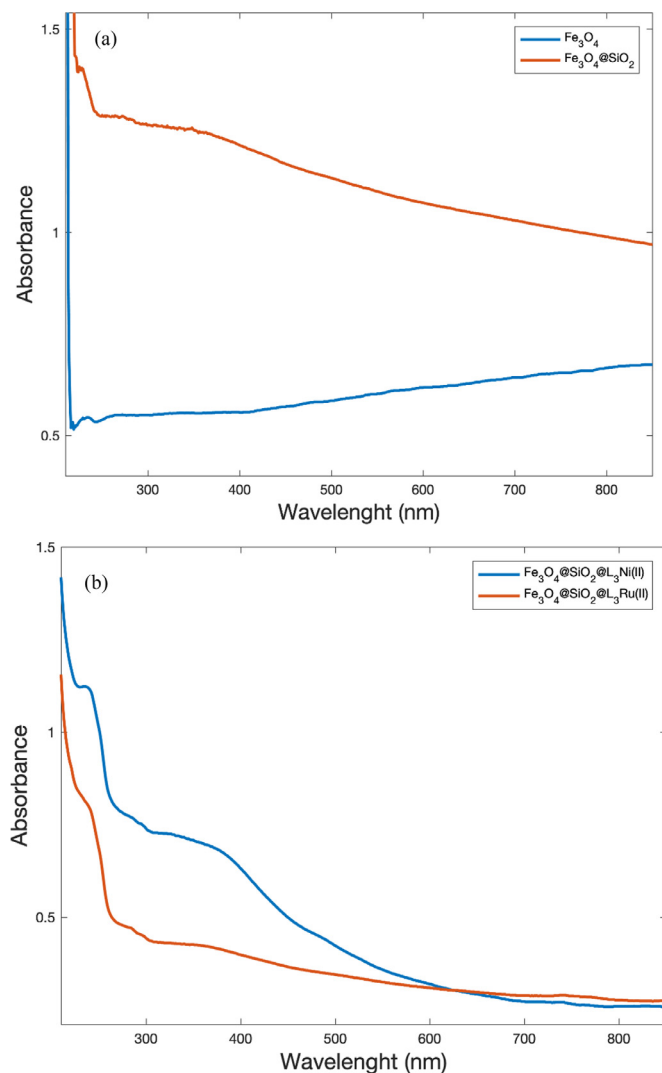


Fig. 6. UV-Vis. spectra of the synthesized compounds.

complexes were filtered and washed with EtOH. The precipitations were dried at 60 °C for 12 h. The proposed chemical structures of the complexes are given in Fig. 1 and 2.

2.3. Catalytic synthesis of D-Sorbitol from D-Glucose with transfer hydrogenation

In the optimized catalytic process, 0.1 g nano-catalyst was ultrasonicated in 10 ml of isopropyl alcohol (99.4%) in a quartz tube of the microwave oven. Then, 1 mmol of D-(+)-glucose monohydrate in 15 ml of distilled water and 0.1 mmol of K₂CO₃ was added, respectively and the microwave program was applied in the closed system. Microwave oven program; starting from ambient temperature to 150 °C for 20 min and treated at 150 °C for 40 min set to max. 600 watt. Then, it is left to cool down in 15 min. After the reaction, 200 µL of the mixture was taken from the quartz and diluted to 2 mL with distilled water. The diluted mixture was passed through a 0.45-micron filter, and 20 µl mixture was injected into HPLC. The conversions and the selectivities were calculated from the external calibrations of D-glucose, D-mannitol, D-fructose and D-sorbitol.

HPLC Experimental Conditions:

Module	Conditions
Pump	Mobile phase acetonitrile: water (70:30%)Flow rate: 0.5 ml/min
Autosampler	Injection volume: 20 µl
Oven	Temperature: 35 °C
Detector	Refractive index (+)
Column	Inertsil NH ₂

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Characterization

3.1.1. Thermal analyses

Aminomethylphosphine-Ru(II) and Ni(II) complexes supported on Fe₃O₄@SiO₂ nanocomposite behaved the similar thermogravimetric properties as seen in Figure S1. All the complexes showed four endothermic degradation bands in TG/DTA/DTG curves. Firstly, the adsorbed water molecules were desorbed from the ambient temperature to 90 °C. The dissociation of silanol groups and chloro ligands degraded to about 300 °C with an endothermic band. Aminophosphine and p-cymene ligands having aromatic and the aliphatic substituents decomposed to over 600 °C with an endothermic band. The last band was due to the formation of metal-oxides. The total degradations of the complexes were 15–20%. Fe₃O₄, SiO₂, and metal-oxide derivatives have arisen after the temperature program.

3.1.2. Morphology

Non-uniform spherical structures were observed in TEM and SEM images of Fe₃O₄-supported aminomethylphosphine-Ru(II) and Ni(II) complexes. It can be said that silica was covered on the spherical magnetite particles. The diameter of the supported complexes on the spherical particles have about 10 nm (Fig. 3). The diameter of Fe₃O₄@SiO₂@L₃-Ni(II) complex particle calculated as 6.14 nm ± 0.75 nm for Fe₃O₄@SiO₂@L₃-Ni(II) (Fig. 4).

3.1.3. EDX

The EDX spectra of the synthesized Fe₃O₄@SiO₂@aminomethylphosphine-Ru(II) and Ni(II) complexes were confirmed the complexation on the nanocomposite surface having phosphorus, carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, iron, silicon, chlorine and the metal for each complex. (Figure S2).

3.1.4. XRD analyses

In order to study the crystalline structural properties and phase information of the synthesized Fe₃O₄@SiO₂ based aminomethylphosphine-metal complexes, X-Ray diffraction analyses were conducted. The XRD patterns for Fe₃O₄, Fe₃O₄@SiO₂, Fe₃O₄@SiO₂@L₃-Ru(II) and Fe₃O₄@SiO₂@L₃-Ni(II) were given in Fig. 4. The graphic explicitly demonstrates both the crystalline and amorphous structures formation. The highest crystalline structures obtained for Fe₃O₄ nano-particles with obvious six peaks at around 2θ angle of 30.10°, 35.42°, 43.12°, 53.65°, 56.96° and 62.52° correspondings to the (220), (311), (400), (422), (511) and (440) crystal planes of the Fe₃O₄ (Ref. Code. 01-075-1610, PDF2 database) similarly also found in recent literature [46,47]. In the illumination of the XRD results, the cubic structure of Fe₃O₄ nanoparticles is synthesized. The crystalline size of the nanoparticles was found by utilizing the Scherrer formula determined as 44.3 nm. There is also a small peak around 44.67° related to the cubic form of iron (Ref. Code: 01-087-0721). The bottom lines demonstrate the reference card bars of Fe₃O₄ and Fe with red and black color, respectively. The XRD pattern of Fe₃O₄@SiO₂ nanocomposite decreases the intensity of Fe₃O₄ diffraction pattern that indicates the existence of the disordered structure of Fe₃O₄@SiO₂ nano-particles [48]. The diffraction pattern of Fe₃O₄@SiO₂@L₃-Ni(II) composite is given in green in Fig. 5, with introducing aminomethylphosphine-Ni(II)

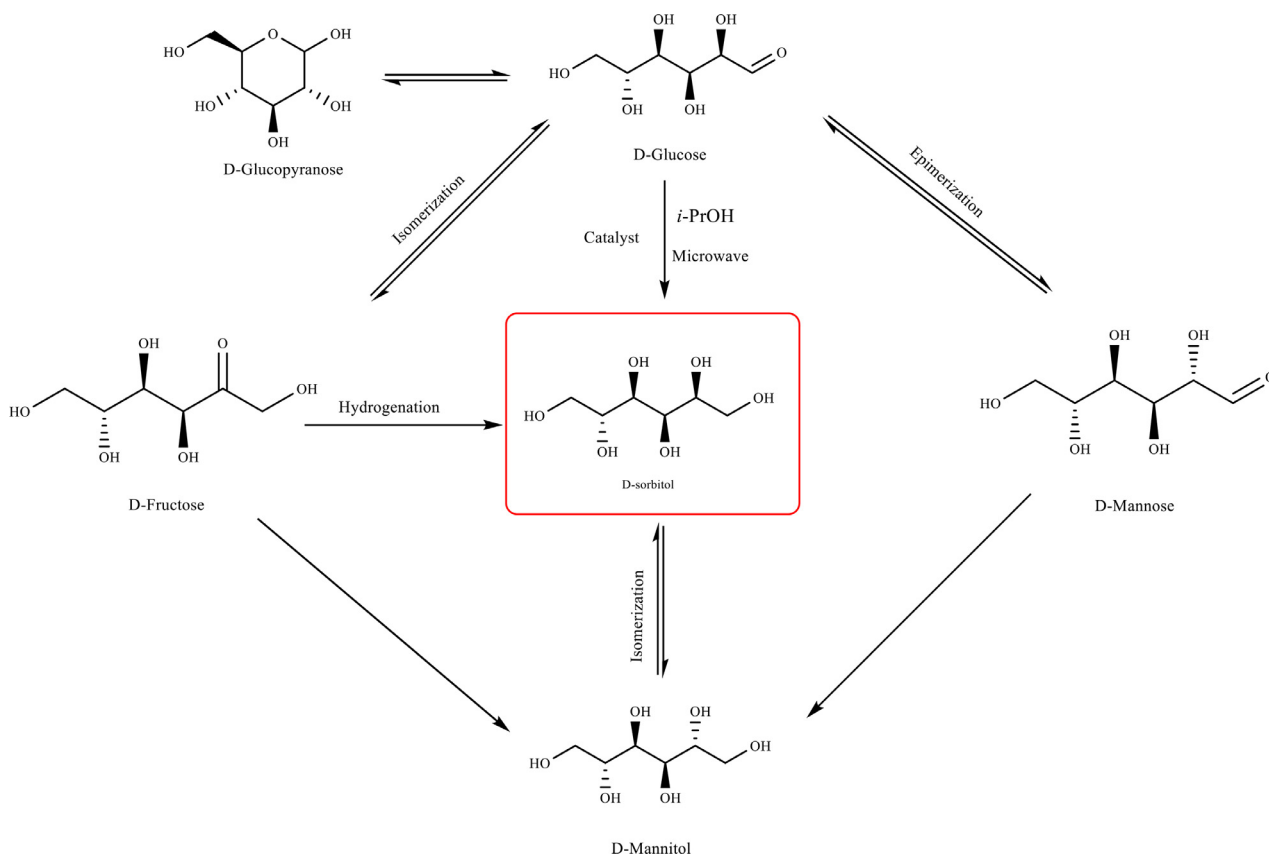


Fig. 7. Hydrogenation of D-glucose [59].

complex to $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@/\text{SiO}_2$ composites, the pattern slightly changed. The most apparent peak centered at 44.67° indicates iron phase. Also, for $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@/\text{SiO}_2\text{-L3-Ru(II)}$ complex, the crystalline peak at 44.67° and 64.98° represents the existence of iron phase.

3.1.5. Optical absorption analyses

The metal-to-ligand charge-transfer (MLCT) transitions of the complexes were observed at around 360 nm due to the π -acidity of phosphorus-carbon σ^* -antibonding orbitals in aminomethylphosphine ligands in the metal complexes. Thus, these type of the ligands are known as σ -donors and strong π -acceptors [23,49,50]. MLCT transfer bands were seen in UV spectra of $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@/\text{SiO}_2$ @bis(diphenylphosphinomethyl)amine-Ni(II) and Ru(II) complexes. Besides, the forbidden d-d transitions of the complexes were recorded at around 485 nm as very small bands [23, 49, 50].

3.1.6. FT-IR

The band gap of the synthesized nanocomposites was calculated by using the Tauc equation;

$$(Ah\nu)^n = B(h\nu - E_g)$$

here, E_g is optical band gap of the composites, $h\nu$ is the photon energy, B is material constant, A is the amount of absorbance and n is constant depends on the material. The selected UV-Vis. spectra and the calculated band gaps of all the synthesized complexes were given in Fig. 6 and Fig. S3. The graphics of band gap energies of the synthesized nanoparticles under the light of the above mentioned studies were plotted as seen Fig. S3 [51-55].

The band gap values of Fe_3O_4 were reported as 2.04 eV in the literature [56], but in our study, we found band gap of Fe_3O_4 as 2.08 eV. The band gap increased by introducing SiO_2 to 2.31 eV

was found in this study. The calculated band gaps were given in Figure S2 and band gap values for $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@/\text{SiO}_2\text{-L1-Ni(II)}$ and $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@/\text{SiO}_2\text{-L4-Ru(II)}$ was calculated as 2.37 eV and 2.38 eV respectively.

3.1.6. FT-IR spectra

Silica peaks from the covering on the magnetite in the complexes were impressed to the vibration modes of the functional groups in FT-IR spectra. The silanol-OH and secondary amine N-H stretching modes of the magnetite@ SiO_2 supported aminomethylphosphine-metal complexes were overlapped with a wide band at about $3100\text{-}3400\text{ cm}^{-1}$. Aromatic and aliphatic C-H stretching modes were recorded at around $3000\text{-}2890\text{ cm}^{-1}$. Aromatic C=C stretching mode was seen at around 1620 cm^{-1} . The wideband around 1060 cm^{-1} was because of Si-O asymmetric stretching modes. P-Ph and C-N stretch of the supported aminomethylphosphine-metal complexes were collected as one broad peak at about 1400 cm^{-1} . Besides, M-P and M-Cl vibration modes of the complexes were collected about 530 cm^{-1} and 430 cm^{-1} in FT-IR spectra of the complexes (Table 1 and Figure S4).

3.2. Catalytic synthesis of D-Sorbitol by D-Glucose transfer hydrogenation: aldose reductase mimetics

The novel synthesized nanocomposite supported, magnetically recoverable aminomethylphosphine-Ru(II) and Ni(II) complexes were used in the transfer hydrogenation of D-glucose to D-sorbitol in isopropyl alcohol under microwave power in 1 h reaction time. Isopropyl alcohol (*i*-PrOH) is used as a solvent and hydrogen source in the transfer hydrogenation reactions, which is cheap, safe, non-toxic, environmentally friendly [57]. All the novel Ru(II) complexes showed outstanding catalytic activities, especially $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@/\text{SiO}_2\text{-L2-Ru(II)}$ complex was the best at 97.18% selectivity with 99.11%

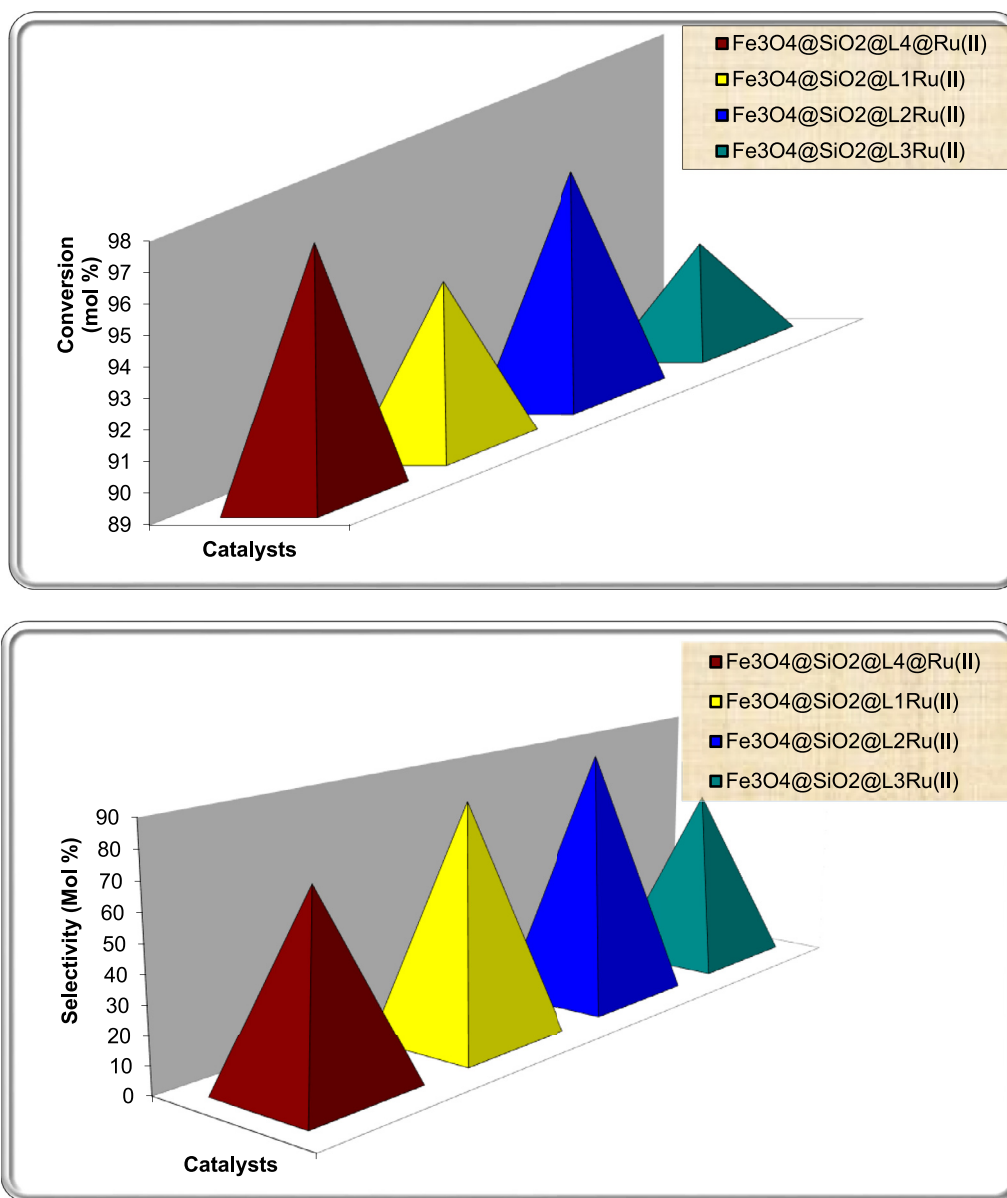


Fig. 8. Conversions and selectivities for Ru(II) complexes.

Table 2
Conversions and selectivities for the aldose reductase mimetics.

Catalyst	Conversion (mol%)	Selectivity (mol%)
Fe ₃ O ₄ @SiO ₂ @L1-Ru(II)	98,28	94,45
Fe ₃ O ₄ @SiO ₂ @L2-Ru(II)	99,11	97,18
Fe ₃ O ₄ @SiO ₂ @L3-Ru(II)	97,18	95,29
Fe ₃ O ₄ @SiO ₂ @L4-Ru(II)	98,15	91,25
Fe ₃ O ₄ @SiO ₂ @L1-Ni(II)	97,80	58,17
Fe ₃ O ₄ @SiO ₂ @L2-Ni(II)	98,10	55,37
Fe ₃ O ₄ @SiO ₂ @L3-Ni(II)	96,25	56,54
Fe ₃ O ₄ @SiO ₂ @L4-Ni(II)	97,15	68,89

conversion when compared to the literature in the route of the transfer hydrogenation of D-glucose to D-sorbitol [36,37,40,58-63]. Fe₃O₄@SiO₂@L₂-Ni(II) complex was also very active in the transfer hydrogenation of D-glucose to D-sorbitol over 68.89% selectivity with 97.15% conversions (Fig. 8, 9, Table 2) (chromatograms given in each catalyst in supplementary as separate pdf files). According to the possible catalytic reaction mechanism (Fig. 7) and the literature, catalysis is very important for the transfer hydrogenation

of D-glucose to D-sorbitol working as a brain in the reaction. The high selectivities can be obtained by using a catalyst in the transfer hydrogenation [36,37,40,58-63].

The nano-core magnetite (Fe₃O₄) is a unique supporting material because of its large area and its magnetic properties for the silica gel's controlled precipitation. In addition, covering of SiO₂ on a nano-core provides additional vital features because of its unique chemical and physical stability in severe chemical and physical conditions for the catalyst supporting. Ru(II) complexes of aminomethylphosphine ligands supported on Fe₃O₄@SiO₂ calculated small band gap like a semiconductor (Figure S3) gives unique properties in the transfer hydrogenation of D-glucose to D-sorbitol due to the electron transfer from i-PrOH (reducing agent) to metal center and finally to the substrate in the possible mechanism. In addition, nanocomposite supported complexes having about 2.0-2.5 eV band gaps supply an easy electron circulation from the substrates to the reducing agent (i-PrOH). Also, the effect of the microwave excitation to the bonds provides a large positively charged surface area for the binding of substrates and the re-

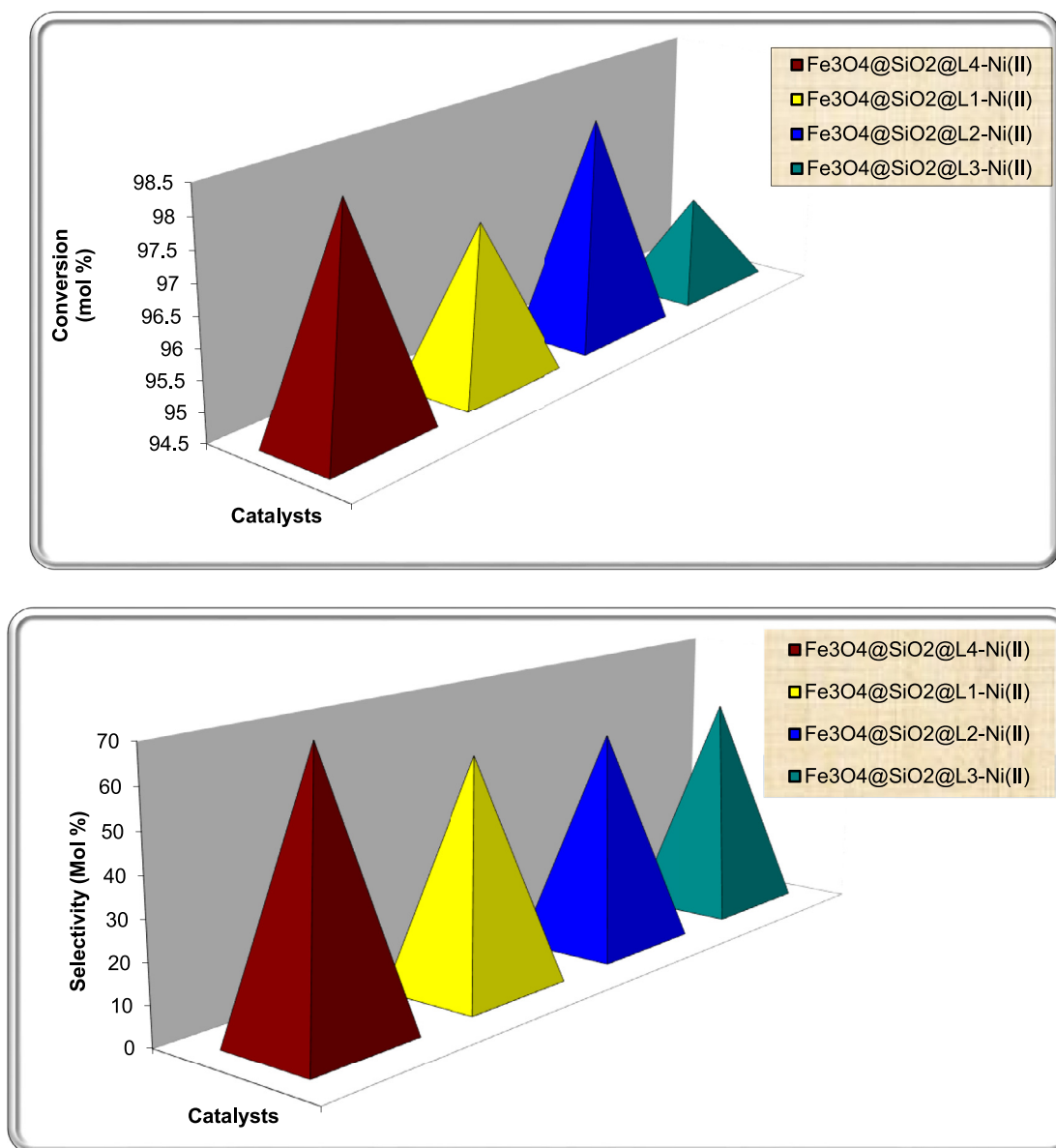


Fig. 9. Conversions and selectivities for Ni(II) complexes.

ducing agents with a complexation in the reaction possible mechanism (Fig. 10). Aminomethylphosphine ligands have excellent steric and electronic properties that can increase the catalytic transfer hydrogenation activity because of having π -back bonding properties in the metal complexes. π -acceptor aminomethylphosphine ligands can form π -back bonding with metal centers, and they can play unique catalytic activities in the catalysis mechanism. Because the strong π -back bonding in the complex can facilitate the leaving of chloro and *p*-cymene ligands, and then formed *D*-glucose-Ru(II)-aminomethylphosphine-(*i*-PrOH) pre-complexes in the effect of K_2CO_3 base. In the activated Ru(II) complexes, having coordinated the sugar substrate and the reducing agent can easily change the molecular structure of the chelated metal-ligand complexes in the proposed catalysis mechanism. The hydrogen transfer from *i*-PrOH to the carbonyl group of glucose in the coordination sphere can be formed and then acetone and *D*-sorbitol leaves from the metal center (Fig. 5) [6,16,34,35,57,59,64,17-23,33].

The microwave power in the closed reactor system increased *D*-sorbitol selectivity with Ru(II) catalyst while controlling the oxidizing to gluconolactone and rearrangement and isomerization of *D*-

glucose to *D*-mannitol and *D*-fructose in the transfer hydrogenation reaction mechanism like a processor. Additionally, the microwave irradiation in the closed system provided the bond activation of sugar having dipole fields with the homogeneous heating resulted in the transfer of hydrogen from isopropyl alcohol to *D*-glucose efficiently. Thus, it was obtained 97.18% selectivities with 99.11% conversions that is the best in the literature [35,38,40,58,62,63,65].

The Ru (II) complexes were removed from the reaction medium with a magnet and washing after each analysis, and re-usability was examined in the cycles. The Ru(II) complexes, which have the highest recovery in five cycles, especially Fe₃O₄@ SiO₂@L2-Ru (II) complex (Table 3, Fig. 11).

Conclusions

In the study, Fe₃O₄@SiO₂ supported-bidentate ditertiary aminomethylphosphine ligands and their Ru(II) and Ni(II) complexes have been synthesized using the Schlenk technique under nitrogen atmosphere. The synthesized complexes were tried as aldose reductase mimetics in the transfer hydrogenation of *D*-

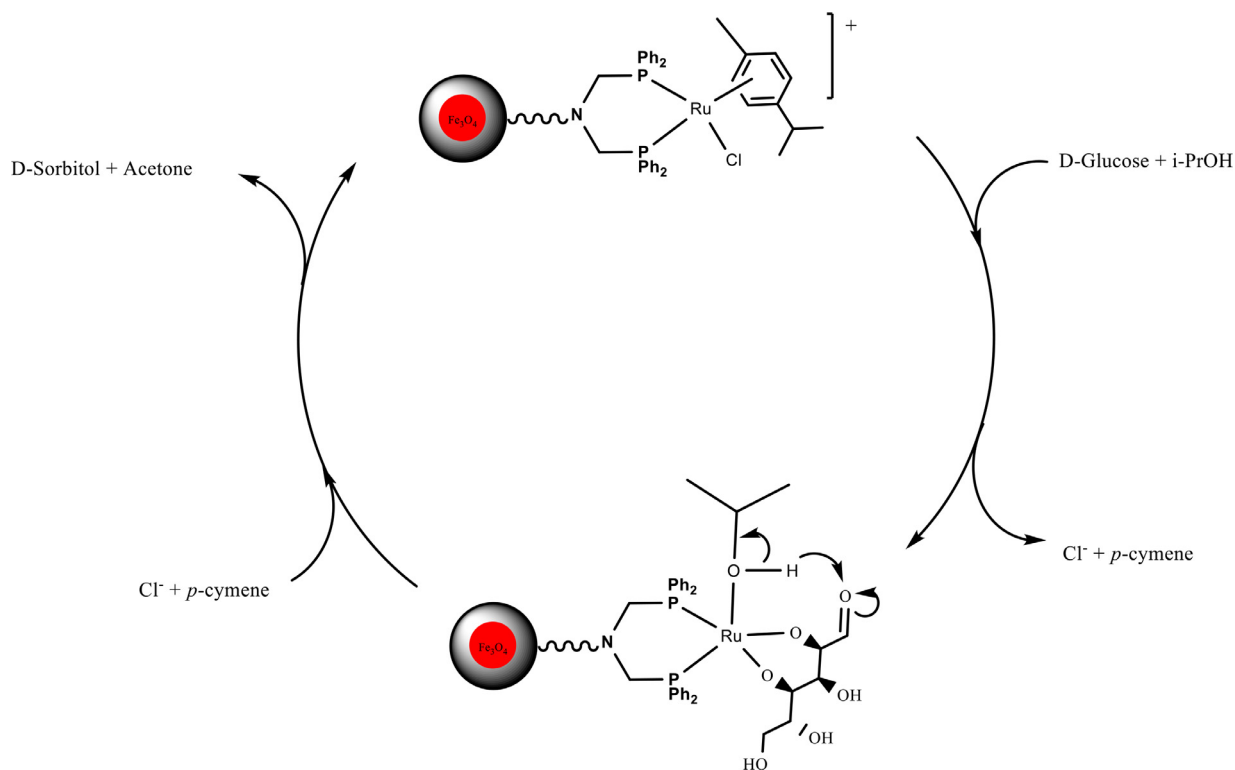


Fig. 10. Possible mechanism of transfer hydrogenation of D-glucose.

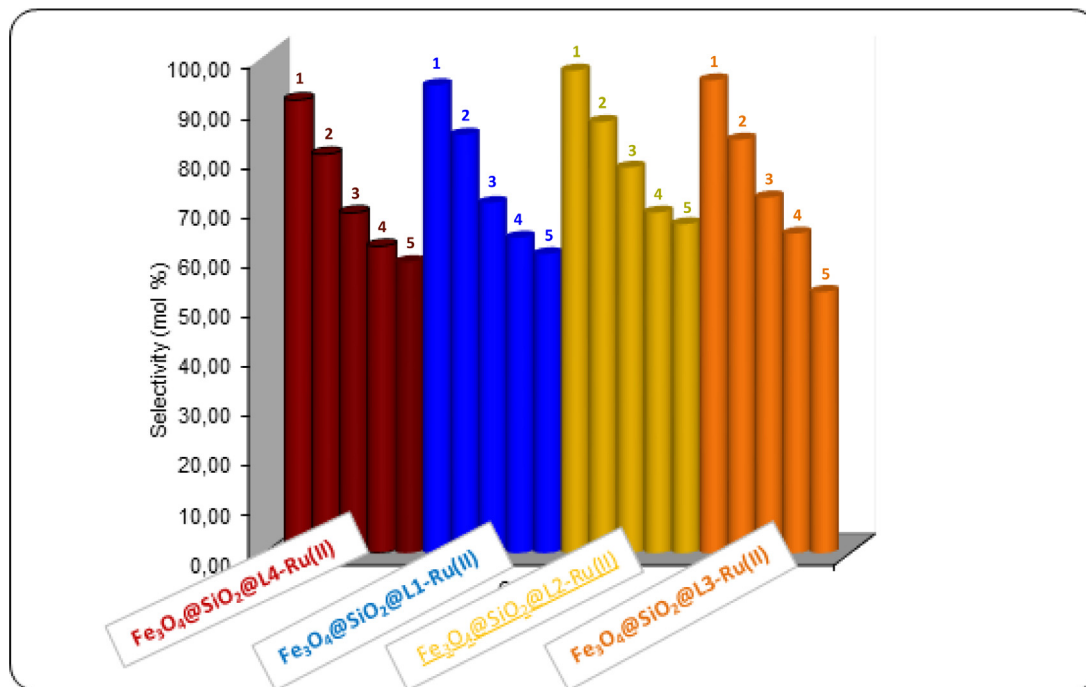


Fig. 11. Recycling graphics for Ru(II) complexes.

Table 3
Catalytic Recycles of Ru(II) Complexes.

Catalyst	Catalytic Recycles				
	1	2	3	4	5
Fe ₃ O ₄ @SiO ₂ @L1-Ru(II)	94,45	84,10	70,40	63,40	60,10
Fe ₃ O ₄ @SiO ₂ @L2-Ru(II)	97,18	86,68	77,50	68,45	66,10
Fe ₃ O ₄ @SiO ₂ @L3-Ru(II)	95,29	83,10	71,50	64,20	52,50
Fe ₃ O ₄ @SiO ₂ @L4-Ru(II)	91,25	80,20	68,40	61,70	58,50

glucose to D-sorbitol in the closed microwave system. The Ru(II) complexes showed the best selectivities by using K₂CO₃ in i-PrOH. The best conversions and the selectivities were obtained in 1 h compared to the literature. The excellent chemical properties of the aminomethylphosphine-Ru(II) complexes with the effect of the microwave power in the closed reactor system and the electron mobility of the nanocomposite surface a semiconductor increased the catalytic activities of showed a unique catalytic property. The

obtained selectivities and the conversions are the best in the literature.

Credit author statement

Serhan URUŞ: Synthesis, characterization, catalysis
Hasan ESKALEN: XRD, band gap
Mahmut ÇAYLAR: Synthesis, catalysis
Mehmet AKBULUT: Synthesis, catalysis

Declaration of Competing Interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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Supplementary materials

Supplementary material associated with this article can be found, in the online version, at doi:10.1016/j.molstruc.2021.130313.

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