Transformations in aluminum oxyhydroxide under powerful short-pulse microwave radiation

A V Mostovshchikov¹, A P Ilyin¹ and A V Korshunov²,*

¹Department of Natural Sciences, National Research Tomsk Polytechnic University, Tomsk, 634050 Russia
²Department of Building Materials and Materials Science, Moscow State University of Civil Engineering, Moscow, 129337 Russia

*E-mail: androkor@mail.ru
Thermal effects in non-irradiated and in irradiated with MWs samples of Al oxyhydroxide

At linear heating of the irradiated sample, an endo-effect at \( \approx 656 \, ^\circ\text{C} \) is observed in the DTA-curves, which is caused by melting of metal aluminum. Such an effect is absent in the control experiments with the non-irradiated sample (Fig. 1, curves 1’ and 2’). Slightly decreased melting temperature, in comparison with the standard one (660 \( ^\circ\text{C} \)), might be connected with the small sizes of Al fragments (clusters, nanoparticles) formed [8].

**Figure 1.** The TG (1,2) and DTA (1’,2’) curves of linear heating of the Al oxyhydroxide samples before (1, 1’) and after (2, 2’) exposure to the powerful short-pulse microwave radiation; in the insert on the right, the parts of DTA-curves corresponding to the temperature area of Al melting are shown.
An average content of the metal in the treated samples amounted to \(~1.5\) wt. % (Fig. 1, curve 2'). This value is in good agreement with the additional metal content in the irradiated Al nanopowders determined by the volumetric method. The presence of the metal Al traces in the irradiated samples was also confirmed by X-ray diffraction (Fig. 2).
Structure transformation in Al oxyhydroxide under powerful microwave irradiation

Figure 3. TEM micrographs of Al oxyhydroxide before (a) and after (b) microwave irradiation; an electron diffraction pattern is shown in the insert.

It follows from the TEM observations that spheroidal dense structures smaller than 100 nm were formed within the oxyhydroxide matrix after microwave irradiation (Fig. 3). The positions of reflexes on the electron diffraction patterns correspond to the lattice characteristics of metal Al (Fig. 3, b).