
Contents

Introduction	ix
Chapter 1. Elaboration of Nanoparticles	1
1.1. Solid-phase elaboration.	2
1.1.1. Mechanical milling	2
1.2. Liquid-phase elaboration	19
1.2.1. Sonochemistry.	19
1.2.2. Microemulsion synthesis	23
1.2.3. Solvothermal syntheses	28
1.2.4. Sol-gel syntheses	39
1.3. Gas-phase elaboration.	43
1.3.1. Condensation in inert gas	43
1.3.2. Explosion of metal wires	46
1.3.3. Thermal plasma synthesis	48
1.3.4. Laser ablation	60
1.3.5. Pyrotechnic synthesis	73
Chapter 2. Methods for Preparing Nanothermites	87
2.1. Introduction.	87
2.2. Physical mixing	89
2.2.1. Mixing in hexane	89
2.2.2. Mixing in isopropanol	92
2.2.3. Mixing in water	95
2.2.4. Mixing in other solvents.	96
2.2.5. Dry mixing.	97
2.2.6. Aerosol synthesis of the “building blocks” for physical mixing.	98

2.3. Coating	100
2.3.1. Coating oxide with fuel	101
2.3.2. Coating fuel with oxide	102
2.3.3. Coating of fuel with a metal layer	104
2.4. Sol-gel method	104
2.4.1. Formation of oxide around the metal particles	105
2.4.2. Preparation of oxides subsequently mixed with metal	108
2.5. Impregnating porous solids	111
2.6. Assembly	114
2.6.1. Chemical methods	114
2.6.2. Biological methods	117
2.6.3. Electrical methods	118
2.7. Structuring at the surface of substrates	121
2.8. Conclusions and perspectives	125
Chapter 3. The Experimental Study of Nanothermites	127
3.1. Introduction	127
3.2. Study and properties of main fuels	128
3.2.1. Nanometric aluminum	129
3.2.2. Other fuels of interest	157
3.3. Oxidizers of interest for nanothermites	166
3.3.1. Metal or metalloid oxides	167
3.3.2. Oxidizing salts	189
3.4. Methods for the characterization of nanothermites	195
3.4.1. Reactive characterization	196
3.4.2. Morphological characterizations	219
3.5. Conclusion: performance of nanothermites and their enhancement	225
Chapter 4. Nanothermites and Safety	229
4.1. Introduction	229
4.2. Pyrotechnic safety	229
4.2.1. Definition and measurement of sensitivity	230
4.2.2. Techniques used for the desensitization of nanothermites	232
4.2.3. Pyrotechnic risk assessment	236
4.2.4. Regulatory aspects	239
4.3. Neutralization of nanothermites	239

4.4. Toxicological risk	243
4.4.1. Toxicity of the constituents and reaction products of nanothermites.	244
4.4.2. Analyses of specific risks and good practices	250
4.5. Conclusions and perspectives	257
Conclusion	259
Bibliography	263
Index	323