

STUDY ON THE MECHANICAL BEHAVIOR  
OF SILICA NANOPARTICLE REINFORCED  
MAGNESIUM BIO-NANOCOMPOSITE

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### SUPERVISOR'S DECLARATION

I hereby declare that I have checked this thesis and in my opinion, this thesis is adequate in terms of scope and quality for the award of the degree of Master of Science.

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I hereby declare that the work in this thesis is based on my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any other degree at Universiti Malaysia Pahang or any other institution.

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## ABSTRAK

Tahun kebelakangan ini, keperluan biomaterial logam canggih untuk implan tiruan telah meningkat secara berperingkat dan pasaran bagi orang-orang yang mempunyai keretakan tulang dan degenerasi yang berpunca daripada perlanggaran, kecederaan olahraga atau proses penuaan normal, kebiasaannya memerlukan implant bahan bio untuk mendapatkan semula fungsi, dijangka berterusan. Magnesium (Mg) dan aloinya telah menarik minat yang besar untuk menjadi alternatif yang mungkin bahan implan ortopedik tradisional kerana sifat terbiodegradasi dan mekanikal mereka yang sangat baik. Bahan Mg ini menunjukkan rintangan kakisan yang rendah dalam persekitaran fisiologi walaupun manfaat besar mereka. Untuk meningkatkan tingkah laku kakisan dan mengekalkan kemerosotan pada kadar terkawal, bahan pengisi digunakan untuk aloi Mg untuk menghasilkan komposit. Selain daripada bahan oksida lain, silica ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ) adalah satu lagi pilihan bahan pengisi yang boleh digunakan untuk menghasilkan bio-komposit berasaskan Mg kerana bioserasi yang tinggi. Teknik aloi mekanikal (MA) telah digunakan secara meluas dalam pembuatan bahan komposit, memerlukan transformasi bahan-bahan kerana pelbagai kimpalan sejuk, patah dan proses kimpalan semula zarah serbuk gilingan di penggilingan bola yang sangat bertenaga, menjadikan serbuk lebih seragam kerana keupayaannya untuk mengintegrasikan zarah pengukuhan ke dalam acuan logam pada jarak yang dekat. Oleh itu, dalam kajian ini, magnesium-nanosilica ( $\text{Mg-SiO}_2$ ) sistem komposit telah dibuat oleh proses aloi mekanikal dengan peratusan berat yang berbeza daripada pengukuhan nanosilika untuk mencapai komposisi pengukuhan optimum. Untuk mendapatkan penggubalan, serbuk mentah peratusan yang dikehendaki telah diadun, dipadat dan disinter. Sampel yang dibuat kemudiannya disediakan untuk pencirian mikrostruktur, ujian mekanikal dan kakisan. Analisis mikrostruktur mendedahkan mikrostruktur sampel nanokomposit yang hampir sempurna dengan fasa baru pembentukan magnesium silisida ( $\text{Mg}_2\text{Si}$ ). Sifat-sifat mekanikal komposit, termasuk kekerasan dan kekuatan tegangan, telah diperiksa. Ia diperhatikan dari sifat mekanikal yang diperolehi bahawa kekerasan dan kekuatan tegangan nanokomposit bertambah baik secara mendadak kerana pengeluaran fasa  $\text{Mg}_2\text{Si}$  dalam komposit. Di samping itu, nanokomposit yang dibuat mempunyai sifat rintangan kakisan yang lebih kuat daripada bahan Mg tulen. Penambahan 5 berat % nanosilica ke dalam acuan Mg mendedahkan sifat mekanikal dan kakisan menonjol berbanding dengan bahan acuan dan komposisi lain nanokomposit  $\text{Mg-SiO}_2$ . Nanokomposit Mg-5%  $\text{SiO}_2$  ini menunjukkan potensinya untuk menjadi bahan bio-implan yang berkesan

## ABSTRACT

In recent years, the need for advanced metallic biomaterials for artificial implants has gradually risen and the market for people with bone fractures and degeneration attributable to collisions, athletic injuries or normal ageing processes, often requiring biomaterial implants to regain function, is expected to continue. Magnesium (Mg) and its alloys have drawn tremendous interest in becoming possible alternatives to traditional orthopaedic implant materials due to their excellent biodegradable and mechanical properties. These Mg materials demonstrate low corrosion resistance in a physiological environment despite their great benefits. In order to improve corrosion behaviour and sustain degradation at a controlled rate, filler materials are applied to the Mg alloys to produce composites. Apart from other oxide materials, silica ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ) is another option of filler material that can be used to produce Mg-based bio-composite due to its high biocompatibility. Mechanical alloying (MA) technique has been widely used in the manufacturing of composite materials, requiring the transformation of materials due to various cold welding, fracturing and re-welding processes of milled powder particles in a highly energetic ball mill, making the powder more homogeneous due to its ability to integrate the reinforcing particle into the metal matrix at a close distance. Therefore, in this study, magnesium- nanosilica (Mg- $\text{SiO}_2$ ) composite system has been fabricated by the mechanical alloying process with different weight percentages of nanosilica reinforcement in order to achieve an optimal reinforcement composition. In order to get the formulation, the raw powders with the desired percentage were blended, compacted and sintered. The fabricated samples were then prepared for microstructural characterization, mechanical and corrosion testing. Analysis of the microstructure revealed an almost flawless microstructure of nanocomposite samples with a new phase of magnesium silicide formation ( $\text{Mg}_2\text{Si}$ ). Mechanical properties of the composites, including hardness and tensile strength, have been examined. It is observed from the obtained mechanical properties that the hardness and tensile strength of the nanocomposites improve dramatically due to the production of the  $\text{Mg}_2\text{Si}$  phase in the composite. In addition, the fabricated nanocomposite has stronger corrosion resistance properties than the pure Mg material. The addition of 5 wt. % nanosilica into the Mg matrix reveals superior mechanical and corrosion properties relative to the matrix material and other compositions of the Mg- $\text{SiO}_2$  nanocomposites. This Mg-5% $\text{SiO}_2$  nanocomposite demonstrated its potential to be an effective bio-implant material.

## TABLE OF CONTENT

<b>DECLARATION</b>	
<b>TITLE PAGE</b>	
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>ABSTRAK</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>ABSTRACT</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>TABLE OF CONTENT</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>LIST OF TABLES</b>	<b>viii</b>
<b>LIST OF FIGURES</b>	<b>ix</b>
<b>LIST OF SYMBOLS</b>	<b>xi</b>
<b>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS</b>	<b>xii</b>
<b>CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 General Background	1
1.2 Problem Statements	3
1.3 Objectives of Research	5
1.4 Scope of the Thesis	5
1.5 Thesis Outline	6
<b>CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	<b>7</b>
2.1 Introduction	7
2.2 Biomaterial	7
2.2.1 Bio-composite	10
2.3 Magnesium Based-material	11



2.3.1	Magnesium (Mg)	12
2.3.2	Silica Nanoparticle	16
2.4	Fabrication Process of Bio-composite	17
2.4.1	Liquid-state Fabrication	17
2.4.2	Solid-state Fabrication	18
2.5	Mechanical Alloying Method	18
2.5.1	Ball Milling	20
2.5.2	Compaction Process	21
2.5.3	Sintering Process	22
2.6	Mechanical Properties of Composite	22
2.6.1	Hardness	23
2.6.2	Elastic Modulus	26
2.6.3	Tensile Strength	27
2.7	Corrosion	31
2.8	Conclusion	36
<b>CHAPTER 3 METHODOLOGY</b>		<b>37</b>
3.1	Introduction	37
3.2	Materials Used	37
3.3	Fabrication Process	39
3.3.1	Powder Preparation	39
3.3.2	Compaction Process	42
3.3.3	Sintering Process	43
3.4	Microstructural Characterization	44
3.5	Mechanical Test	45
3.5.1	Hardness Test	45

3.5.2	Tensile Test	46
3.6	Corrosion Test	47
3.7	Summary	48
<b>CHAPTER 4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS</b>		<b>49</b>
4.1	Introduction	49
4.2	Analysis of Raw Powders and Microstructure of Mg- SiO <sub>2</sub> Nanocomposite	49
4.2.1	Powder Analysis	49
4.2.2	Microstructure Analysis of Mg-SiO <sub>2</sub> Nanocomposite	52
4.3	Mechanical Properties	56
4.3.1	Vickers Micro-Hardness Measurement	56
4.3.2	Tensile Properties of Mg-SiO <sub>2</sub> Nanocomposite	57
4.4	Corrosion Test Result	59
4.4.1	Corrosion Resistance Property	59
4.4.2	SEM and EDX Analysis	60
4.5	Discussion	64
4.6	Summary	65
<b>CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSION</b>		<b>67</b>
5.1	Conclusions	67
5.2	Future Recommendations	69
<b>REFERENCES</b>		<b>70</b>
<b>APPENDICEX A</b>		<b>82</b>

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