

EFFECT OF ZINC AND MOLYBDENUM ON  
THE MICROSTRUCTURE AND CORROSION  
BEHAVIOR OF MAGNESIUM-BASED  
ALLOYS PRODUCED BY POWDER  
METALLURGY TECHNIQUE

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## ABSTRAK

Magnesium dan aloinya menawarkan sifat bahan yang ringan dan sangat baik serta bermanfaat bagi komponen automotif, elektronik, dan aplikasi bioperubatan. Namun, disebabkan struktur kristal HCP, magnesium umumnya menunjukkan kemuluran yang terhad pada suhu rendah. Penambahan elemen aloi dan tetulang boleh menjadi pendekatan yang berkesan bagi mengatasi masalah ini, tetapi ia juga dapat mempengaruhi tingkah laku karatan secara drastik. Di dalam industri automotive, kadar karatan dijangkakan sebanyak 8.5  $\mu\text{m}$ /tahun. Kajian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji perkembangan struktur mikro sampel magnesium dengan penambahan elemen zink (Zn) dan molibdenum (Mo). Tingkah laku karatan sampel Mg juga dinilai berdasarkan hubungan kait dengan perkembangan struktur mikro sampel. Kesemua sampel dihasilkan menggunakan teknik metalurgi serbuk, dan sampel padatan dihasilkan berdasarkan 10, 20 dan 30 wt.% komposisi Zn dan Mo yang ditetapkan. Struktur mikro dikaji menggunakan mikroskop optik dan mikroskop imbasan elektron (SEM) dan, analisis fasa ditentukan dari analisis belauan sinar-x (XRD). Penilaian tingkah laku karatan dilakukan melalui ujian evolusi hidrogen dan ujian pengutuban dinamik upaya di dalam larutan air garam (NaCl) berkepekatan sebanyak 3.5 wt.%. Berdasarkan ujian evolusi hidrogen dan ujian pengutuban dinamik, pengikatan dan taburan Zn yang baik dalam matriks Mg telah dicapai melalui pengaloiian dengan Zn, yang meningkatkan ketahanan karatan Mg-Zn berbanding aloi Mg-Mo. Kadar ketahanan karatan aloi Mg-Zn adalah lebih tinggi berbanding aloi Mg-Mo. Sampel-sampel mudah retak apabila diperhatikan ketika ujian evolusi hidrogen. Keadaan ini menyebabkan peningkatan kadar karatan Mg-30Zn, berbanding Mg-10Zn dan Mg-20Zn semasa ujian tersebut. Penambahan Mo di dalam sampel berfungsi sebagai zarah tetulang dalam Mg, mendorong berlakunya keliangan di dalam sampel, seterusnya mempengaruhi kadar karatan Mg melalui perubahan berat ketika terdedah kepada larutan air garam (NaCl) berkepekatan 3.5 wt.%. Ketahanan karatan bagi sampel Mg-Mo juga meningkat dengan peningkatan jumlah komposisi Mo, berkaitan dengan pengurangan keretakan aloi tersebut. Sampel Mg-5Zn-Mo mempunyai kadar karatan yang lebih rendah berbanding sampel Mg-Mo tetapi lebih tinggi jika dibandingkan dengan sampel Mg-Zn. Kadar karatan yang tinggi pada sampel Mg-Zn-Mo adalah disebabkan kompilasi daripada jumlah zarah Mo dan kehadiran mendakan MgZn<sub>2</sub> seterusnya menyebabkan kerapuhan dan mudah untuk retak semasa ujian karatan. Kesimpulannya, potensipengaloiian elemen dipertimbangkan boleh menjadi penyelesaian bagi merekabentuk aloi magnesium yang memenuhi sifat mekanikal dan karatan untuk kegunaan aplikasi kejuruteraan yang lebih meluas. Oleh itu, kajian ini dilakukan untuk mengenal pasti kesan penambahan Zn dan Mo terhadap perkembangan struktur mikro dan tingkah laku karatan aloi Mg yang dihasilkan melalui teknik metalurgi serbuk.

## ABSTRACT

Magnesium and its alloys offer lightweight and excellent material properties that are beneficial for automotive components, electronics, and biomedical applications. However, due to their hexagonal close-packed crystal structure, they generally exhibit limited ductility at low temperatures. The addition of alloying elements and reinforcement can effectively address this limitation, but the corrosion behavior can be significantly affected. In automotive industry, the estimated corrosion rate was about 8.5  $\mu\text{m}/\text{year}$ . This study aims to investigate the microstructure development of magnesium (Mg) with the addition of zinc (Zn) and molybdenum (Mo). The corrosion behavior of Mg samples was evaluated with a correlation to their microstructure development. All of the samples were produced using the powder metallurgy technique, and the compact samples were produced based on 10, 20, and 30 wt. % of Zn and Mo compositions. The microstructure was investigated by optical and scanning electron microscopy, while the phase analysis was determined from X-ray diffraction analysis. The corrosion behavior was evaluated by the hydrogen evolution test and potentiodynamic polarization test in 3.5 wt.% sodium chloride (NaCl) solution. From the microstructure observation, great bonding and distribution of Zn in the Mg matrix were achieved when alloying with Zn, compared to Mg with Mo addition. Based on this finding, the corrosion resistance of Mg-Zn alloys is higher than Mg-Mo alloys. However, the samples were easily crack when observed during hydrogen evolution test. This condition has led to the enhancement of Mg-30Zn corrosion rate compared to Mg-10Zn and Mg20Zn. The addition of Mo serves as reinforcement particles in the Mg, inducing porosity in the sample and affecting the corrosion rate of the Mg sample by weight loss during exposure in the 3.5 wt. % NaCl solution. The corrosion resistance of Mg-Mo alloys increased with the increasing amount of Mo composition, which is associated with the less crack of the alloys. The Mg-5Zn-Mo sample has a lower corrosion rate than MgMo samples but a higher corrosion rate than Mg-Zn samples. The high corrosion rate of Mg-Zn-Mo samples is due to the compilation from the amount of Mo particles and the presence of MgZn<sub>2</sub> precipitates thus causing easily crack or fracture during the corrosion test. In conclusion, considering the potential of alloying elements, it is possible to design a Mg alloy that satisfies both mechanical and corrosion properties for more extensive engineering applications. Therefore, this study is conducted to identify the effect of Zn and Mg addition towards the microstructure and corrosion behavior of Mgbased alloys produced by powder metallurgy technique.

## 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>ix</b>
<b>LIST OF FIGURES</b>	<b>xi</b>
<b>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS</b>	<b>xvi</b>
<b>LIST OF APPENDICES</b>	<b>xvii</b>
<b>CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Research Background	1
1.2 Problem Statement	3
1.3 Research Objective	5
1.4 Scope of the Research	5
1.5 Thesis Outline	6
<b>CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	<b>7</b>
2.1 Introduction	7
2.2 Properties of Mg and Its Alloys	7
2.2.1 Mg Structure and Properties	7
2.2.2 Zinc as an Alloying Element	9
2.2.3 Mo as a Reinforcement Material in Composite	12
2.2.4 Previous Research on the Effect of Zn and Mo Addition on the Microstructure and Corrosion Behavior of Mg Alloys	14



2.3	Powder metallurgy	27
	2.3.1 Previous Research on Powder Metallurgy of Mg	29
2.4	Prior Particle Boundary	33
2.5	Corrosion Mechanism of Mg	38
	2.5.1 Hydrogen Evolution	39
	2.5.1.1 Weight-loss technique	39
	2.5.1.2 Electrochemical technique	40
	2.5.2 Passivity	42
	2.5.3 Microgalvanic Effect of Alloying Elements	46
2.6	Summary	47
<b>CHAPTER 3 METHODOLOGY</b>		<b>48</b>
3.1	Introduction	48
3.2	Research Flow	48
3.3	Sample Preparation	50
	3.3.1 Semi-Powder Metallurgy Process	51
	3.3.1.1 Blending Process	51
	3.3.1.2 Vacuum Filtration and Drying Process	52
	3.3.1.3 Powder Compaction	52
	3.3.1.4 Sintering process	53
3.4	Density Measurement	54
3.5	Microstructure Characterization	56
	3.5.1 Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)	59
	3.5.2 X-Ray Diffraction (XRD) Analysis	59
3.6	Corrosion Evaluation	61
	3.6.1 Hydrogen Evolution Test	61
	3.6.2 Potentiodynamic Polarization Test	63
3.7	Summary	64

<b>CHAPTER 4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION</b>	<b>65</b>
4.1 Introduction	65
4.2 Microstructure Characterization of Pure Mg, Mg-Zn, Mg-Mo and Mg-Zn-Mo Alloys	65
4.2.1 Pure Mg Sample	65
4.2.2 Mg-Mo Sample	67
4.2.2.1 Grain Structure of Mg-Mo Alloys	67
4.2.2.2 Second-Phase Particles, Intermetallic Distribution, and Composition	70
4.2.2.3 Density Measurement	75
4.2.2.4 X-Ray Diffraction (XRD) Analysis	76
4.2.3 Mg-Zn Sample	77
4.2.3.1 Grain Structure of Mg-Zn Alloys	77
4.2.3.2 Second-Phase Particles, Intermetallic Distribution, and Composition	80
4.2.3.3 Density Measurement	84
4.2.3.4 X-Ray Diffraction (XRD) Analysis	85
4.2.4 Mg-Zn-Mo Sample	86
4.2.4.1 Grain Structure of Mg-Zn-Mo Alloys	86
4.2.4.2 Second-Phase Particles, Intermetallic Distribution, and Composition	89
4.2.4.3 Density Measurement	93
4.2.4.4 X-Ray Diffraction (XRD) Analysis	94
4.2.5 Summary of Microstructure Development	95
4.3 Corrosion Behavior	95
4.3.1 Pure Mg Sample	95
4.3.2 Mg-Mo Sample	96
4.3.2.1 Hydrogen Evolution Test Analysis	96
4.3.2.2 Corrosion Morphology	99
4.3.2.3 Potentiodynamic Polarization	100
4.3.3 Mg-Zn Sample	102
4.3.3.1 Hydrogen Evolution Test Analysis	102
4.3.3.2 Corrosion Morphology	104
4.3.3.3 Potentiodynamic Polarization	105

4.3.4	Mg-Zn-Mo Sample	107
4.3.4.1	Hydrogen Evolution Test Analysis	107
4.3.4.2	Corrosion Morphology	108
4.3.4.3	Potentiodynamic Polarization	110
4.3.5	Role of Zn and Mo on the Corrosion Behavior of Mg	112
4.4	Summary	116
<b>CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION</b>		<b>118</b>
5.1	Introduction	118
5.2	Microstructure Development of Powder Metallurgy Mg Alloys	118
5.3	The Effect of Zn and Mo on the Corrosion Behavior of Powder Metallurgy Mg Alloys	119
5.4	Recommendation	119
<b>REFERENCES</b>		<b>120</b>
<b>APPENDICES</b>		<b>129</b>

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1	Structural properties of pure Mg.	8
Table 2.2	Physical and mechanical properties of pure Mg.	8
Table 2.3	Physical and mechanical properties of Zn.	10
Table 2.4	Physical and mechanical properties of Mo.	13
Table 2.5	Corrosion results from the potentiodynamic polarization test.	20
Table 2.6	Relative densities of Mg-2 wt.% Mo.	23
Table 2.7	Microstructure characterization result.	25
Table 2.8	Corrosion rates obtained from weight-loss test.	27
Table 2.9	Corrosion rates obtained from Tafel extrapolation method.	27
Table 2.10	Results of density and grain size measurements.	32
Table 3.1	Properties of powder.	50
Table 3.2	Compositions of powders.	50
Table 3.3	XRD parameters for phase analysis.	60
Table 3.4	Parameters for the potentiodynamic polarization test.	64
Table 4.1	Mean grain area and size measurement of pure Mg sample.	66
Table 4.2	Mean grain area and size measurement of Mg-Mo samples.	70
Table 4.3	The density of Mg-Mo samples, calculated by the weight and water displacement.	76
Table 4.4	Mean grain area and size measurement of Mg-Zn samples.	80
Table 4.5	The density of Mg-Zn samples, calculated by the weight and water displacement.	85
Table 4.6	Mean grain area and size measurement of Mg-Zn-Mo samples.	89
Table 4.7	The density of Mg-Zn-Mo samples, calculated by the weight and water	94
Table 4.8	Potentiodynamic polarization analysis of the pure Mg sample, indicating $E_{\text{corr}}$ , $i_{\text{corr}}$ and corrosion rate.	96
Table 4.9	Corrosion rate of Mg-Mo compositions based on the weight-loss measurement.	98
Table 4.10	Potentiodynamic polarization analysis of the Mg-Mo samples, indicating $E_{\text{corr}}$ , $i_{\text{corr}}$ and corrosion rate.	102
Table 4.11	Corrosion rate of Mg-Zn compositions based on the weight-loss measurement.	103
Table 4.12	Potentiodynamic polarization analysis of the Mg-Zn samples, indicating $E_{\text{corr}}$ , $i_{\text{corr}}$ and corrosion rate.	107
Table 4.13	Corrosion rate of Mg-Zn-Mo compositions based on the weight-loss measurement.	108

Table 4.14	Potentiodynamic polarization analysis of the Mg-Zn-Mo samples, indicating $E_{\text{corr}}$ , $i_{\text{corr}}$ and corrosion rate.	112
Table 4.15	Corrosion rate based on HE test and potentiodynamic polarization test of Mg alloys.	116

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 2.1	Crystal structure of Mg.	9
Figure 2.2	Crystal structure of Zn.	10
Figure 2.3	Phase diagram of Mg-Zn alloys.	12
Figure 2.4	Crystal structure of Mo.	13
Figure 2.5	Equilibrium binary phase diagram of Mg-Mo.	14
Figure 2.6	Optical microstructure of the aged of Mg-3.4 wt.% Zn at 423 K for (a) 60 s, (b) 600 s, (c) 4 h, (d) 16 h, (e) 128 h and (f) Graph of grain size against the annealing time.	15
Figure 2.7	Microstructure observation of Mg-4 wt.% Zn under: (a) Optical optical microscope; (b) SEM.	15
Figure 2.8	Optical microscope observation of: (a) Pure Mg; (b) Mg-1 wt.% Zn; (c) Mg-5 wt.% Zn; and (d) Mg-7 wt.% Zn.	16
Figure 2.9	SEM micrographs of (a) pure Mg; (b) Mg-2Zn; (c) Mg-4Zn; (d) Mg-6Zn; (e) Mg-8Zn; (f) Mg-10Zn.	17
Figure 2.10	Micrograph of microstructure observation of as-cast Mg-Zn alloys: (a) Mg-1.0Zn; (b) Mg-2.0Zn; (c) Mg-3.0Zn; (d) Mg-4.0Zn; (e) Mg-5.0Zn; (f) Mg-6.0Zn.	18
Figure 2.11	Potentiodynamic polarization curve of Mg-Zn alloys.	19
Figure 2.12	Corrosion rates of Mg-Zn alloys with varied Zn content, immersed in 3.5 wt.% NaCl solution.	20
Figure 2.13	Back scattered electron SEM image of the sample sintered at 723 K where the grey areas are Mg matrix, white areas are Mo and black areas are pores.	21
Figure 2.14	XRD of the Mg-2 wt.% Mo at different ball milling duration.	22
Figure 2.15	TEM image of Mg-2 wt.% Mo ball milled for 25 hours.	22
Figure 2.16	SEM micrographs of: (a) Mg-0.7 Mo; (b) Mg-2.0 Mo; (c) Mg-3.6 Mo.	23
Figure 2.17	Interfacial integrity between Mg matrix and Mo reinforcement: (a) Mg-0.7 Mo; (b) Mg-2.0 Mo; (c) Mg-3.6 Mo.	24
Figure 2.18	Polarization curve of: (a) Mg-Cu composites; and (b) Mg-Mo composites, immersed in 3.5% NaCl solution.	26
Figure 2.19	Polarization curve of: (a) Mg-Cu composites; and (b) Mg-Mo composites, immersed in 3.5% NaCl solution.	28
Figure 2.20	SEM images of: (a) Mg-Zn-Ca at sintering temperature of 580 °C; (b) Mg-Zn-Ca at sintering temperature of 630 °C (c) Mg-Zn-Ca-10Ca at sintering temperature 580 °C; and (d) Mg-Zn-Ca-10Ca at sintering temperature of 630 °C.	30

Figure 2.21	Micrographs of Mg alloys after immersed in 0.1M of NaCl solution for two weeks.	31
Figure 2.22	TEM micrograph between Mg matrix and nano-Al particulates.	32
Figure 2.23	XRD pattern of synthesized Mg-Al particulates.	33
Figure 2.24	PPBs micrographs under lacking SPS consolidation.	34
Figure 2.25	Micrographs of Mg/nano-Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> composite deformed at dissimilar temperatures and rate of strain.	35
Figure 2.26	Microstructures of Mg/nano-Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> composite: (a) deformed at 450 °C/10 s <sup>-1</sup> (b) deformed at 450 °C/10 s <sup>-1</sup> and annealed at 450°C for 5 hours.	35
Figure 2.27	SEM observations of the Mg-Ti composites: (a) pure Mg; (b) Mg-20Ti; (c) Mg-40 Ti; (d) Mg-50 Ti; (e) Mg-60 Ti; (f) Mg-80 Ti; (g) Mg-90 Ti; (h) pure Ti.	37
Figure 2.28	(a) XRD analysis of the Mg-Ti composites; and (b) SEM observation of Mg-20Ti composite at interfacial area.	37
Figure 2.29	Tafel polarization curve to determine corrosion rate.	40
Figure 2.30	Example of corrosion analysis Tafel plot.	42
Figure 2.31	Polarization characteristics for an active-passive of a metal.	43
Figure 2.32	Example of active-passive metal which experienced both active and passive corrosion behavior.	44
Figure 2.33	Polarization curve for metal M in an acid showing E <sub>corr</sub> and Tafel extrapolation for determination of i <sub>corr</sub> .	45
Figure 2.34	Pourbaix diagram of possible stable substances in a Mg-H <sub>2</sub> O electrochemical system.	46
Figure 2.35	Pourbaix diagram of possible stable substances in a Mg-H <sub>2</sub> O electrochemical system.	47
Figure 3.1	Pourbaix diagram of possible stable substances in a Mg-H <sub>2</sub> O electrochemical system.	49
Figure 3.2	Pourbaix diagram of possible stable substances in a Mg-H <sub>2</sub> O electrochemical system.	51
Figure 3.3	Vacuum filtration process of the powder mixture and ethanol.	52
Figure 3.4	The hydraulic press is used to compact the powder.	53
Figure 3.5	Magnesium sample in a 'green compact' form.	53
Figure 3.6	Sintering method with a tube furnace.	54
Figure 3.7	After the sintering process, a brown compact magnesium sample was obtained.	54
Figure 3.8	Density test setup.	55
Figure 3.9	Hot mounting machine used to produce mounted sample.	56
Figure 3.10	Uploaded micrograph of Mg sample in ImageJ software.	57

Figure 3.11	ImageJ settings for grain size and particle size measurement.	58
Figure 3.12	Numbered area of grain area to be measured.	58
Figure 3.13	Hitachi TM3030 tabletop SEM machine.	59
Figure 3.14	Panalytical XRD machine.	60
Figure 3.15	Sample for the hydrogen evolution test.	61
Figure 3.16	Hydrogen evolution test setup.	62
Figure 3.17	Experiment setup for the potentiodynamic polarization measurement.	64
Figure 4.1	Optical micrographs of etched pure Mg.	66
Figure 4.2	Grain area and feret diameter distribution of the pure Mg sample.	66
Figure 4.3	Optical micrographs of etched: (a) Mg-10Mo; (b) Mg-20Mo; (c) Mg-30Mo.	67
Figure 4.4	Grain area and feret diameter distribution of the: (a) Mg-10Mo; (b) Mg- 20Mo; (c) Mg-30Mo.	68
Figure 4.5	SEM micrographs of the: (a) Mg-10Mo; (b) Mg-20Mo; (c) Mg-30Mo, observed at the magnification of 2000x.	71
Figure 4.6	Selected spectrum for the EDX composition analysis of the: (a) Mg-10Mo; (b) Mg-20Mo; (c) Mg-30Mo.	72
Figure 4.7	Selected EDX spectrum of existed elements in the: (a) Mg-10Mo; (b) Mg- 20Mo; and (c) Mg-30Mo.	72
Figure 4.8	XRD analysis of the Mg-20Mo sample showing different phases existed on the sample.	77
Figure 4.9	Optical micrograph of etched: a) Mg-10Zn; b) Mg-20Zn; c) Mg-30Zn.	78
Figure 4.10	Grain area and grain size based on feret diameter distribution of the: (a) Mg-10Zn; (b) Mg-20Zn; (c) Mg-30Zn.	79
Figure 4.11	SEM micrographs at 2000x magnification of the: (a) Mg-10Zn; (b) Mg-20Zn; (c) Mg-30Zn.	81
Figure 4.12	Selected spectrum for EDX analysis of the: (a) Mg-10Zn; (b) Mg-20Zn; (c) Mg-30Zn.	82
Figure 4.13	Selected EDX spectrum of existed element in the: (a) Mg-10Zn; (b) Mg-20Zn; and (c) Mg-30Zn.	83
Figure 4.14	XRD analysis of the Mg-20Zn sample showing the existence of MgZn <sub>2</sub> phase.	86
Figure 4.15	Optical micrograph of etched: (a) Mg-5Zn-10Mo; (b) Mg-5Zn-20Mo; and (c) Mg-5Zn-30Mo.	87
Figure 4.16	Grain area and grain size based on feret diameter distribution of the: (a) Mg-5Zn-10Mo; (b) Mg-5Zn-20Mo; (c) Mg-5Zn-30Mo samples.	87



Figure 4.17	SEM micrographs at 2000x magnification of the: (a) Mg-5Zn-10Mo; (b) Mg-5Zn-20Mo; (c) Mg-5Zn-30Mo.	90
Figure 4.18	SEM micrographs at 2000x magnification of the: (a) Mg-5Zn-10Mo; (b) Mg-5Zn-20Mo; (c) Mg-5Zn-30Mo.	90
Figure 4.19	Selected spectrum information of existed element in the: (a) Mg-5Zn-10Mo; (b) Mg-5Zn-20Mo; (c) Mg-5Zn-30Mo.	91
Figure 4.20	XRD analysis of the Mg-5Zn-20Mo sample showing the presence of different phases.	94
Figure 4.21	Potentiodynamic polarization curve of pure Mg sample which was exposed with 3.5 wt.% NaCl solution.	96
Figure 4.22	Hydrogen evolution rate over time of the Mg-10Mo, Mg-20Mo and Mg-30Mo.	97
Figure 4.23	SEM micrograph of cleaned Mg-20Mo sample which was exposed during the hydrogen evolution test and underwent corrosion product removal.	99
Figure 4.24	Selected spectrums information of existed element in the Mg-20Mo sample after corrosion product removal.	99
Figure 4.25	Combined plot of potentiodynamic polarization curves of the Mg-Mo samples, exposed to the 3.5 wt.% NaCl solution.	100
Figure 4.26	Images of the Mg-20Mo sample during the anodic polarization in the 3.5 wt.% of NaCl solution: (a) Start of anodic polarization, (b) after 3 mins exposure, and (c) end of polarization.	101
Figure 4.27	The hydrogen evolution rate over time of the Mg-10Zn, Mg-20Zn and Mg-30Zn.	103
Figure 4.28	SEM micrograph of Mg-10Zn sample, which was exposed during hydrogen evolution test and underwent corrosion product removal.	104
Figure 4.29	Selected EDX spectrum of existed element in the Mg-10Zn sample.	105
Figure 4.30	Combined plot of potentiodynamic polarization curves of the Mg-Zn samples exposed in the 3.5 wt.% NaCl solution.	106
Figure 4.31	Images of Mg-10Zn sample during the anodic polarization in the 3.5 wt.% NaCl solution: (a) Start of anodic polarization, (b) after 3 mins exposure, and (c) end of polarization.	106
Figure 4.32	The hydrogen evolution rate over time of the Mg-5Zn-10Mo, Mg-5Zn-20Mo and Mg-5Zn-30Mo samples.	108
Figure 4.33	SEM micrograph of cleaned Mg-5Zn-10Mo sample which was exposed during the hydrogen evolution test and underwent corrosion product removal.	109
Figure 4.34	Selected EDX spectrum of existed element in the Mg-5Zn-10Mo sample.	109
Figure 4.35	Combined plot of potentiodynamic polarization curves of the Mg-Zn-Mo samples, exposed in the 3.5 wt.% NaCl solution.	110

Figure 4.36	Images of the Mg-5Zn-10Mo sample during the anodic polarization in the 3.5 wt.% of NaCl solution: (a) Start of anodic polarization, (b) after 3 mins exposure, and (c) end of polarization.	111
Figure 4.37	Combined plots of hydrogen evolution rate over time of Mg-based alloys with 10% composition.	113
Figure 4.38	Combined plots of hydrogen evolution rate over time of Mg-based alloys with 20% composition.	113
Figure 4.39	Combined plots of hydrogen evolution rate over time of Mg-based alloys with 30% composition.	113
Figure 4.40	Corrosion rate of Mg-based alloys based on weight-loss measurement from the hydrogen evolution test.	114

## LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A: Density measurement of Mg-Mo	129
Appendix B: Density measurement of Mg-Zn	132
Appendix C: Density measurement of Mg-Zn-Mo	135
Appendix D: XRD diagram of individual elements	138
Appendix E: Publications	139

## REFERENCES

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