

## NiTiO<sub>3</sub>/polyimide Nanocomposite: Synthesis and Magnetic Properties

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**Abstract.** Nickel titanate (NiTiO<sub>3</sub>)/ polyimide composite was successfully prepared in wet-chemistry synthesis method, using nickel titanate nanopowder, pyromellitic dianhydride (PMDA) and 4, 4'-oxydianiline. In this method, Fourier transform infrared spectrometry (FT-IR), X-ray diffraction (XRD), scanning electron microscopy (SEM) and vibrating sample magnetometer (VSM) were used to characterize morphology, particle size and the magnetic properties. The results indicated that nickel titanate polyimide nanocomposite with particle size between 20 and 40 nm could be obtained after calcinations of the dried gel at 300 °C.

**Keywords:** Nanocomposite, Magnetic properties, Nickeltitanate, Polyimide

### 1. Introduction

Composite consisting of a polymer matrix and dispersed ceramic particles is a kind of materials with great potential properties and applications [1]. Titanium based oxides containing metals such as MTiO<sub>3</sub> (M: Ni, Pb, Fe, Co, Cu, and Zn) are universally known as inorganic functional materials with wide applications [2]. Nickel titanate has been investigated as a tribological coating to reduce friction and wear at high temperature applications without using liquid lubricants[3]. The wet-chemistry synthesis technique used in this study, including sol-gel, sol-precipitation, combustion synthesis, chemical coprecipitation, and hydrothermal synthesis, offers many distinctive advantages over solid-state method in the production of powders such as a controlled morphology, a narrow size distribution and high purity[4-8]. Aromatic polyimides exhibit many useful properties such as high transition temperatures, excellent dimensional stability, low dielectric constants, and outstanding thermal and thermo – oxidative stability. Therefore some of these materials are being used in such application as high performance structural materials and packaging in printed electronic circuitry. Polyimides are primarily used in the aerospace and microelectronics industries in the forms of films, moldings, and foams [9].

### 2. Experimental

A solution containing 1.0 gr coupling agent of APTS in ethanol (5 ml), and 1.0 gr nickel titanate particles were added into a flask. Under vigorous stirring, this suspension was ultrasonicated at room temperature for 10 min, and heated at 80 °C for 1 h. The condensation between PMDA and ODA in DMAC at room temperature was synthesized (synthesis method see Ref. [6]). After adding the modified NiTiO<sub>3</sub> particles into DMAC, temperature yielded a poly (amic acid) (PAA, the precursor of polyimide) solution with certain solid content the mixture was vigorously stirred under ultrasonication for 4 h at room temperature giving a suspension. Then, the above PAA solution was added into this suspension and stirred for 24-48 h at temperature of 80 °C and rate of 400-500 rpm and finally heating the dried gel at temperatures to obtain (at each temperature of 100, 200, 250, and 300 °C for 1 h, respectively), the polyimide/NiTiO<sub>3</sub> composite was

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obtained. In this process, the content of NiTiO<sub>3</sub> in the composite was controlled by the portion ratio of NiTiO<sub>3</sub> and PAA.

### 3. Results and Discussion

#### 3.1. X-ray Diffraction Patterns and IR Spectra

Fig. 1. Is the FT-IR spectra of NiTiO<sub>3</sub> particles, pure polyimide, and polyimide/NiTiO<sub>3</sub> composite. In this spectrum the NiTiO<sub>3</sub> powder calcined at 750 °C for 2h showed peaks below 800 cm<sup>-1</sup> which are assigned to the Ti-O stretching vibration (see Ref.[2]). In the spectrum of pure polyimide, the absorptions of imide carbonyl band at 1780 and 1720 cm<sup>-1</sup>, and the absorption of imide C-N band at 1380 cm<sup>-1</sup> were the characteristics of PMDA/ODA polyimide [9]

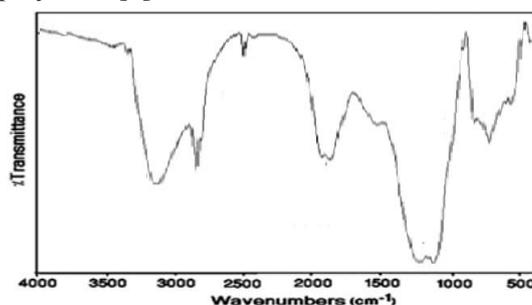


Fig. 1: FTIR spectra of the nanocomposites calcined at 300 °C.

In the spectrum of NiTiO<sub>3</sub>/ polyimide composites, the absorption of NiTiO<sub>3</sub> below 800 cm<sup>-1</sup>, as well as that of polyimide was found unchanged state. These results the success in synthesizing the polyimide/NiTiO<sub>3</sub> composites. To investigate the stability of crystal structure of NiTiO<sub>3</sub> in the process of composite preparation, XRD measurements were carried out. Fig. 3 shows the XRD patterns of the original NiTiO<sub>3</sub> particle, the pure polyimide and the obtained PI/NiTiO<sub>3</sub> composite. It was found that the used NiTiO<sub>3</sub> particles possessing a crystal rhombohedral structure [2]. In comparison with the pure NiTiO<sub>3</sub> in the composite had no obvious differences. It was indicated that the crystal structure of NiTiO<sub>3</sub> was still stable when it was doped into polyimide matrix. However, the XRD pattern of polyimide matrix in the composite was different to that in pure polyimide. In the XRD of pure polyimide, the broad peak with 2θ centered at 17.5 revealed that the polyimide molecules have amorphous structure. As well, this peak becomes narrow in comparison with the correspondence at 17.5 in pure polyimide.

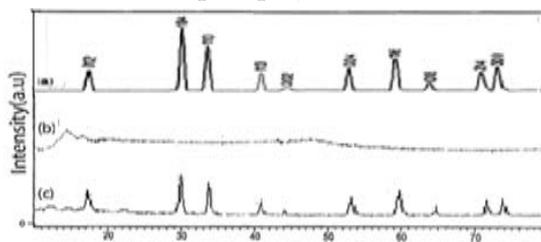


Fig2: X-ray patterns of (a) NiTiO<sub>3</sub> particles, (b) pure polyimide and (c) polyimide/NiTiO<sub>3</sub> ( NiTiO<sub>3</sub> content is 10 % )

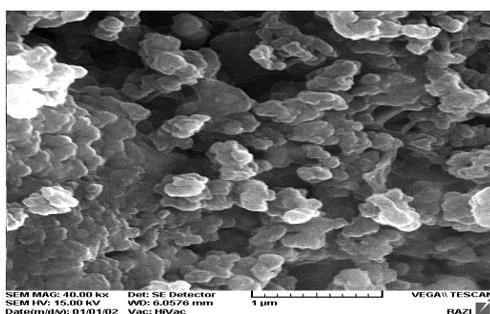


Fig. 3: SEM images of polyimide-NiTiO<sub>3</sub> nanocomposites calcined at 300 °C.

#### 3.2. Morphology of Samples

The morphology of the composites measured by SEM is shown in Fig. 3. It could be seen that NiTiO<sub>3</sub> particles were uniformly distributed throughout the polyimide matrix. There was no obvious aggregation of NiTiO<sub>3</sub> particles in the composites. The size of discrete phase was still remained in near sphere shape with diameter of 21-40 nm.

### 3.3. Magnetic Properties

There are few reports regarding magnetic properties of NiTiO<sub>3</sub>. The VSM magnetic measurements for the NiTiO<sub>3</sub> Fig. 4a. Show the magnetic properties of nanoparticles calcined at 750°C for 1 h. In the face-centered cubic crystallographic structure, the magnetic interactions of neighboring Ni<sup>2+</sup> spins are ferro-magnetic within the a-b planes and antiferromagnetic between adjacent a-b planes. The sample exhibits a fully reversible transition, representative of a genuine antiferromagnet. This fact reflects the good sample quality, since magnetic irreversibilities are often present in magnetic ceramic samples. The synthesized NiTiO<sub>3</sub> indicate a superparamagnetic behavior, as evidenced by zero coercivity and remanance on the magnetization loop. In a system of superparamagnetic particles does not show hysteresis in the M-H curves, hence HC and MR are near zero. A saturation magnetization of ~ 0.2 emu/g. The VSM magnetic measurements for the polyimide/NiTiO<sub>3</sub> Fig. 4b. Show the magnetic properties of nanocomposites calcined at 300°C for 1 h.

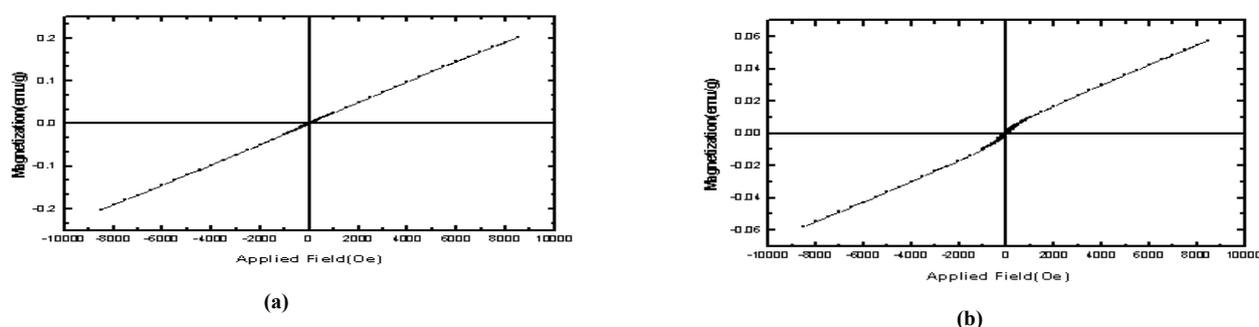


Fig. 4: VSM curves of a) NiTiO<sub>3</sub> nanoparticles calcined at 750 °C, b) polyimide-NiTiO<sub>3</sub> nanocomposites calcined at 300 °C.

## 4. Conclusions

This study has demonstrated the feasibility of synthesis of polyimide/NiTiO<sub>3</sub> nanocomposites using wet chemistry synthesis route, stearic acid gel. Well crystallized polyimide-NiTiO<sub>3</sub> nanocomposites could be synthesized at 300°C for 1 h. Moreover, the synthesized polyimide/NiTiO<sub>3</sub> has been indicated a superparamagnetic behavior, as evidenced by using VSM at room temperature

## 5. Acknowledgement

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