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# SYNTHESIS OF NANOCOMPOSITE MATERIALS AND THEIR PROPERTIES BASED ON POLYMETHYLENE NAPHTHYLENESULFONATE AND TiO2 NANOTUBES

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### Abstract

In this article, the optimal conditions for the formation of nanotubes based on titanium oxide were determined and the synthesis of nanotubes was carried out. The obtained material was studied using scanning electron microscope (SEM) and IR-spectroscopy methods. Naphthalene-based copolymer products were obtained, their formation mechanisms, <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C spectra were studied. Nanocomposite products based on titanium oxide were synthesized and volt-amperometric properties of obtained nanocomposite materials were determined. **Keywords:** anodization, pore formation kinetics, volt-amperometric properties

### Introduction

In the last decade, electrochemical synthesis and anodization process have attracted more attention (Yu, C., et al., 2019; Sun, X., et al., 2019; Zhang, K., et al., 2019). Porous anodic oxides, such as porous aluminum and titanium nanotubes, have attracted great scientific interest because their nanomaterials are used in many fields, especially anodic titanium oxide nanotubes (ATO) in solar energy conversion, supercapacitor, sensor, photocatalytic decomposition and is also of great importance in the fields of converting solar energy into hydrogen fuel (Lee, W., et al., 2014; Cheng, Y., et al., 2015; Li, Z., et al.,

2018). The formation of pores and formation of nanotubes depends on such parameters as concentration of the electrolyte composition, anode voltage, current density, temperature of the electrolyte. For example, the height of nanotubes differs from each other in different literature (Feng, C., et al., 2019; Wang, K., et al., 2014; Lee, K., et al., 2014). At the same concentration of ammonium fluoride (0.3%  $\rm NH_4F$ ) and ethylene glycol electrolytes, it was reported that the height of the obtained nanotubes was significantly different from each other (Zhang, Y., et al., 2015). Zhang et al. 4.7  $\mu$ m long nanotubes were obtained at a current density of 7.5 mA·cm-2, Sui et

al. reported that the height of the nanotubes obtained as a result of anodizing at a current density of 10 mA·cm-2 for 45 minutes was 15.3 µm (Cui, H., et al., 2017). Liu et al. reported that the height of the nanotubes was 8.5 µm obtained by anodizing at a constant voltage of 50 V for 60 minutes (Li, W., et al., 2019). .Masak et al. They studied the effect of Ti substrate on nanotube growth and size in 0.3% NH<sub>4</sub>F electrolyte, nanotubes with a height of 32 ~ 50 μm were obtained by anodizing at 60 V for 360 minutes (Sopha, H., et al., 2016). It can be seen that the anodizing voltage, anodizing current, Ti substrate, and anodizing time are different in the electrolyte with the same concentration of NH<sub>4</sub>F, resulting in a large difference in the height of the nanotubes. This means that the electrochemical dissolution reaction in the presence of fluoride ions  $(TiO_2+6F^-+4H^+\rightarrow [TiF_6]_2^-+$ +2H<sub>2</sub>O) is not a factor determining the nanotube height (Zhang, J., et al., 2018) synthesized nanotubes with a height of 29.8 µm in an ethylene glycol electrolyte containing 0.30% NH<sub>4</sub>F and 2% water at 60 V for 180 minutes. Zhao et al. height of nanotubes reported that the height of nanotubes obtained by anodizing at 60 V for 10 minutes in an ethylene glycol electrolyte consisting of 0.50% NH<sub>4</sub>F and 2% water was 9.0 µm (Zhao, S., et al., 2018). However, Liu et al. also reported that the height of nanotubes obtained by constant voltage anodization at 60V for 360 minutes in an ethylene glycol electrolyte consisting of 0.83% NH<sub>4</sub>F and 8% water was 10 μm (Wang, L., et al., 2024). This is due to the fact

40

20

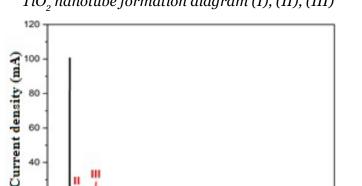
that the fluoride ion participates in the melting reaction and the water content affects the height of the nanotubes.

### Experimental part

A 0.1 mm thick titanium foil (99.8% purity, Sigma Aldrich) was cut into strips  $(10 \text{ mm} \times 40 \text{ mm})$  and polished. To clean the surface of the foil from various roughnesses and inclusions, it was cleaned in a solution consisting of HF:  $HNO_3$ :  $H_2O = 1:1:2$ ) for 15 minutes (GT Sonic-D 6, AC-220-240V). Then it was washed in distilled water for another 15 minutes and air-dried for one hour. After that, an electrolyte containing 2% water, 98% ethylene glycol solution with 0.1 and 0.2% NH<sub>4</sub>F was prepared. Titanium foil was used as the anode and graphite electrode was used as the counter electrode. A titanium foil immersed in an electrolyte has an area of 4 cm2 (2cm×1cm×2 sides). The voltages were applied in different sequence from 30V to 70V (Potentiostat: (Model-SS-350M, S/N 21121062). Anodizing time was 2, 3, 4 and 6 hours and two electrodes were kept constant in two different electrolytes. anodizing voltages were applied and each process was repeated three times. The anodizing process was 20 °C, 50 V and The nanotubes obtained at 20 °C, 60 V showed the formation of highly ordered nanotubes with a flat surface.

### Results and its discussion

Figure 1 shows the variation of electric current and formation of TiO2 nanotubes at 20 °C 50 B, 0.1% NH<sub>4</sub>F.



400

Time(c)

200

**Figure 1.** 20 °C 50 B, 0.1% NH<sub>2</sub>F, electric current change and TiO<sub>2</sub> nanotube formation diagram (I), (II), (III)

800

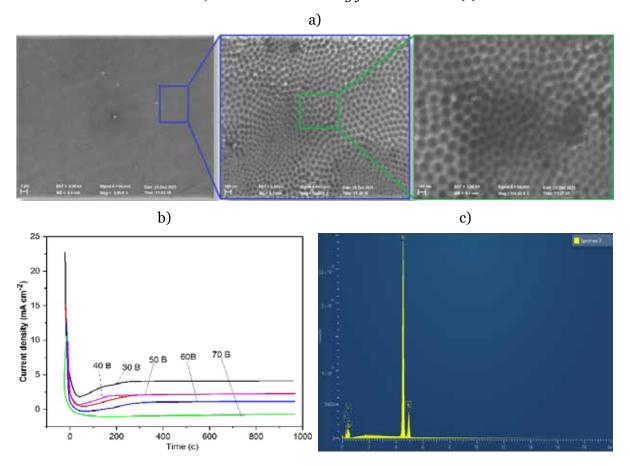
1000

600

Figure 1 (20 °C 50 B, 0.1% NH<sub>4</sub>F) shows the formation of pores in stage I initially at 100 mA, in stage II at 101 mA and 10 s, and in stage III, the nanotubes are fully formed. It can be seen that t, the time and the current are in the same state, i.e. at 20 mA, it contin-

ued in the range of 10–800. The formation of nanotubes at this anodic voltage resulted in the formation of double-walled nanotubes with a uniform flat surface and highly ordered (Figures 2a, b).

**Figure 2.** SEM-EDS (a-b) of nanotubes obtained in 0.1%  $NH_4F$  at 20 °C, 50V and the resulting formation time (c)

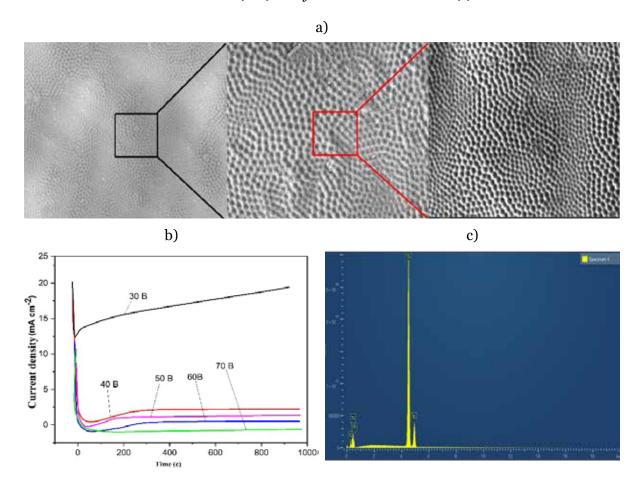


The element composition is 67.55% Ti, 30.45% O and 2% C. Looking at the time curves of the formed current at 20 °C, (30-70 V) in the presence of 0.1% NH<sub>4</sub>F, it can be seen that initially at 30 V 22.5 mA 10 s pore formation begins, but they are not uniform. can be seen. At 40V, 9.9 mA started to form pores at 9 s, 50 V at 15mA at 8.5 s, at 60 V 12.5 mA at 8 s and continued to form pores, and at 70 V at 10.8 mA starting at 7.5 s, irregular and flat it can be seen that the nanotubes formed without,

It can be concluded that the nanotubes formed at 50 V, 8.5 seconds and 60 V, 8 seconds have a flat surface and higher order than the nanotubes formed at other voltages. Formation of nanotubes As can be seen

from Figures 3a, b, double-walled nanotubes with uniform flat surface and high order were formed. The element composition is 65.55% Ti, 31.45% O and 3% C. Looking at the time curves of nanotube formation (Fig. 3c), 30V, 20 mA showed that disordered pores started to form in 10 s, 40 V, 7 mA showed highly disordered pores in 9.5 s, 50V, 12 mA 9 seconds and 60V, 11mA in 8 seconds high-order flat surface, 70V 10 mA At 7.5 seconds, you can see that nanotubes with irregular but smooth surface are formed. It can be concluded that the nanotubes formed at 50V, 12 mA 9 seconds and 60 V, 11 mA 8 seconds, while the nanotubes formed at other voltages are known to have a smooth surface and higher order.

**Figure 3.** Of nanotubes obtained in 0.2%  $NH_4F$  at 20 °C, 60 V. SEM-EDS (a-b) and formation time results (c)



# 2. Synthesis of polymethylene naphthalene sulfonate (PMNS)

The process of obtaining a copolymer product consists of the following stages:

1. Sulfolation of the naphthalene fraction. 64 g of naphthalene-based fraction (210–250 °C) was placed in a three-necked flask equipped with a mechanical

stirrer, a dropping funnel and a reflux condenser, heated to 140 °C and liquefied, and 3 ml/ml of 60 g of sulfuric acid solution of 98% was added using a funnel. min dripped. Since the process was exothermic, the temperature rose to 160–165 °C. In this case, the process was continued for 4 hours. The reaction equation is:

$$+ H_2SO_4 \xrightarrow{160-165^0C} SO_2OH$$

process mechanism:

$$2H_{2}SO_{4} \Longrightarrow H_{3}SO_{4}^{+} + HSO_{4}^{-}$$

$$H_{3}SO_{4}^{+} \Longrightarrow SO_{3}H^{+} + H_{2}O$$

$$SO_{3}H^{+}$$

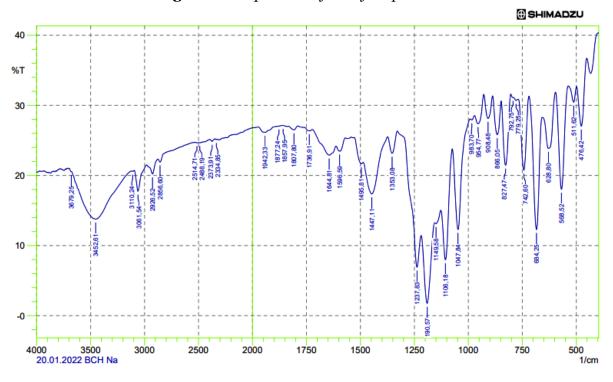
$$+ SO_{3}H^{+} \Longrightarrow SO_{3}H^{+}$$

$$+ H^{+}$$

**Table 1.** Conditions for the synthesis of 2-naphthalenesulfoacid

Substance name	Mole ratio of naphthalene and H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> (98% li).	Tempera- ture, °C	Duration of the reaction, hours	Reaction product (%)
1-Naphthalene sulfonic acid	1:1.2	60	4	48
			6	56
			8	54
	1:1.2	70	4	58
			6	69
			8	61
	1:1.2	80	4	83
			6	91
			8	85
	1:1.2	90	4	79
			6	84
			8	76
	1:1.08	140	4	54
			6	59
			8	55
	1:1.08	150	4	67
			6	82
2-Naphthalene sulfonic acid			8	78
	1:1.08	160	4	81
			6	89
			8	90
	1:1.08	170	4	71
			6	86
			8	76

Figure 4. IR spectrum of 2-sulfonaphthalene



The optimal conditions for the synthesis of 2-naphthalene sulfoacid were naphthalene and sulfuric acid in the ratio of 1:1.08 mol, at a temperature of 160 °C and a process duration of 6 hours, with an efficiency of 89%. During the synthesis of 1 and 2 naphthalene sulfoacids, increasing the duration of the reaction leads to a decrease in yield. Because, as a result of additional reactions (oxidation, 1.1 and 2.2-sulfonyldinaphthalene), the yield of naphthalene sulfoacids decreases.

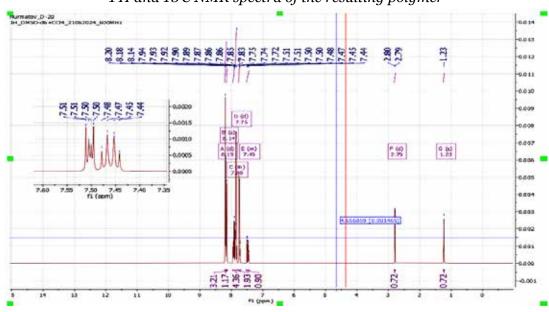
The vibrational frequency is the valence vibration of the -C-H group in the aromatic nucleus in the 3061.54 cm<sup>-1</sup> area, the valence vibration of the C=C bond in the aromatic nucleus in the 1596.59 cm<sup>-1</sup> area, the valence vibration of the aromatic nucleus in the

 $742.6~\rm cm^{-1}$  area, the valence vibration of the  $-\rm SO_3H$  group in the  $1106.18~\rm cm^{-1}$  area vibration, the valence vibration of the C=O bond can be observed in the region of  $1190.57~\rm cm^{-1}$ .

**2. Polycondensation of** β-naphthalene sulfoacid with formalin (35%). The process was carried out in a hermetic reactor equipped with a mechanical stirrer. For the reaction,  $\beta$ -naphthalene sulfonic acid and formaldehyde were taken in a ratio of 1:0.8 mol, and the process was carried out at 90–100 °C for 5 hours. As a result, polymethylenenaphthalene sulfonic acid was synthesized with a yield of 82.4% (Cheng, Y., Peng, Z., Wu, X., Cao, J., Skeldon, P., & Thompson, G. E., 2015). The polycondensation reaction scheme is as follows:

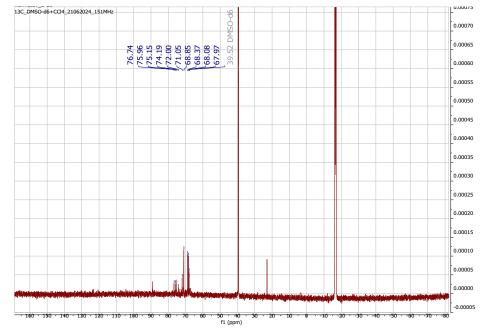
Mechanism of action:

1 H and 13 C NMR spectra of the resulting polymer



(Polymethylenenaphthalene sulfonate acid1H) YaMR (600 MHz, DMSO- $D_6$ )  $\delta$  8.19 (d, J = 11.8 Hz, 3H), 8.14 (s, 1H),

7.95-7.81 (m, 4H), 7.75 (d, J = 0.0 Hz, 2H), 7.53-7.43 (m, 1H), 2.79 (d, J = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 1.23 (s, 1H).



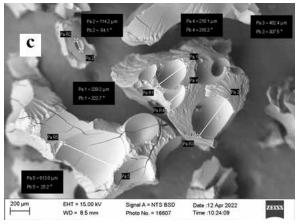
(Polymethylenenaphthalene sulfonate acid13C) YaMR (151 M Hz, DM-SO- $D_6$ )  $\delta$  76.74, 75.96, 75.15, 74.19, 72.00, 71.05, 68.85, 68.37, 68.08, 67.97.

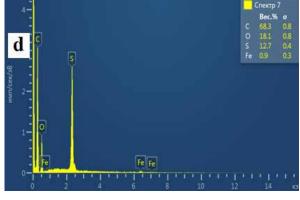
SEM was used to determine the morphology and surface structure and elemental composition of spatially structured polymethylenenaphthalene sulfoacids (Fig. 5). The results of the SEM analysis of polymethylenenaphthalene sulfoacid are presented in pictures (c, d). The SEM result shows that it contains macropores from 114  $\mu$ m to 613  $\mu$ m. The composition of the element consists of 68.3% C, 18.1% O.

# 3. Preparation of nanocomposite materials and their physical and hem-

ical characteristics. To carry out this experiment, the following processes were carried out: an electrochemical polymerization process, using titanium oxide nanotubes as anode and graphite as counter electrode and polymer dissolved in DMSO (15g polymer dissolved in 100g DMSO) as electrolyte. The titanium oxide nanotubes immersed in the electrolyte have an area of 4 cm $^2$  (2 cm  $\times$  × 1 cm  $\times$  2 sides). Voltages were made at 50 V, 60 V, respectively. Anodizing voltages were continuously applied to two electrodes in five different electrolytes for 4 hours. Each step of anodization was repeated three times.

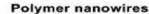
**Figure 5.** SEM-EDS analysis of polymethylene sulfonate naphthalene

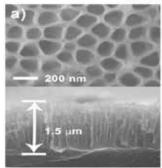


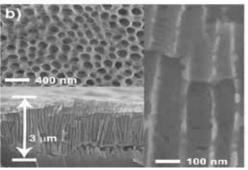


**Figure 6.** SEM micrographs of nanocomposites formed on the basis of nanotubes containing 2, 10 and 45% water

### Polymer nanopore arrays







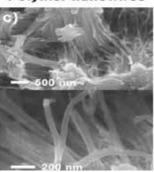
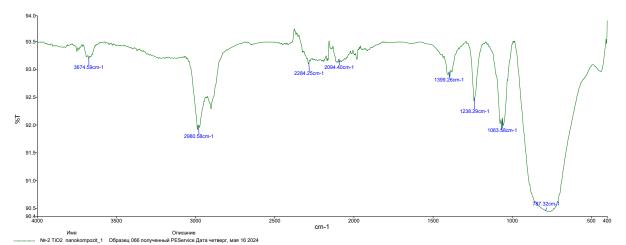


Figure 6a shows that the nanotubes with 2% water have a flat surface and are ordered with a side length of 1.5 microns, (b) the pores

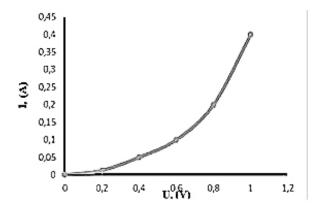
formed at 10% water are irregular but with a side length of 3 microns, (c) At 45% water, we can see that nanotubes are formed randomly.

**Figure** 7. *IR* spectrum of the obtained nanocomposite



The vibrational frequency is the valence vibration of the -Ti-O bond in the aromatic nucleus in the 787.3 cm<sup>-1</sup> region, the valence vibration of the C=C bond in the aromatic nucleus in the 2980.58 cm<sup>-1</sup> region, the valence vibration of the -SO<sub>2</sub>H group in the

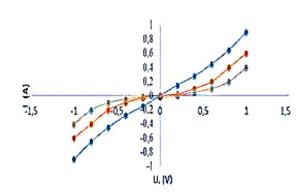
**Figure 8.** Volt-ampere characteristic of nanocomposite containing 2% H<sub>2</sub>O



 $1063.58\,\mathrm{cm^{-1}}$  region, and the  $1238.29\,\mathrm{cm^{-1}}$  region In the -1 region, the valence vibration of the C=O bond can be observed.

The volt-ampere characteristics of the obtained nanocomposites  $(0-1.5\,\mathrm{V})$  were studied:

**Figure 9.** Volt-ampere characteristics of forward and reverse conductivity of nanocomposite samples



The volt-amperometric characteristics of nanocomposite materials in the range (0–1.5V) were studied. In Figure 8, the sample in 2% water in the electrolyte is initially in the ranges from 0 to 1V, that is (0.2 V–0.0125 A, 0.4 V-0.025 A, 0.6 V–0.05 A, 0.8 V–0.09 A, and at 1V 0.15 A) it can be seen that the electrical conductivity of nanotubes increases. Figure 9 shows the diagram of the volt-amperometric characteristics of the samples in forward and

reverse quenching (2%, 10% and 45% water in the electrolyte) it can be seen that the conductivity is good.

This table shows the relative electrical conductivity of nanocomposites obtained at different voltages (from 30 V to 70 V). We can see that the highest values are 14.500 at 50 V and 22.100 at 60 V. It is known from the table that these values are low in the remaining voltages.

### Activation energies and specific electrical conductivity values of polymer composites based on TiO2 (U= 0.5 V)

Nº	Voltage (V)	TiO <sub>2</sub> E, ev	Relative electrical conductivity, Sm/sm
1.	30	0.210	13.200
2.	40	0.092	2.400
3.	50	0.090	14.500
4.	60	0.120	22.100
5.	70	0.070	0.005

### **Summary**

The volt-ampere characteristics of the polymer obtained on the basis of naphthalene and its nanocompositions with metal oxides (TiO2), the activation energies of electrical current conductivity were determined. It was found that the electrical conductivity of polymethylene naphthalene sulfonate acid is "p" type, and its nanocompositions with metal oxides are "n" type conductive materials.

Technical conditions of storage, use and other indicators of composite materials based on polymethylenenaphthalene sulfonate have been developed. The practical importance of polymer nanocomposites can be explained by the fact that they can be used as components of electrode materials for rechargeable batteries and supercapacitors, as additives in the preparation of various antistatic composites, as contact and current-carrying elements in control and measurement equipment.

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