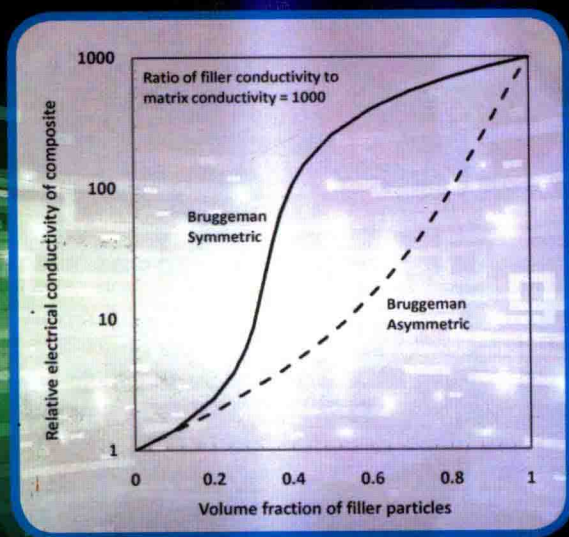


Electromagnetic, Mechanical, and Transport Properties of Composite Materials



RAJINDER PAL



CRC Press
Taylor & Francis Group

Electromagnetic, Mechanical, and Transport Properties of Composite Materials

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Taylor & Francis Group
Boca Raton London New York

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CRC Press
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6000 Broken Sound Parkway NW, Suite 300
Boca Raton, FL 33487-2742

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Printed on acid-free paper
Version Date: 20140624

International Standard Book Number-13: 978-1-4200-8921-9 (Hardback)

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Pal, Rajinder.

Electromagnetic, thermal, and mass transport properties of dispersions and composites / Rajinder Pal.

pages cm. -- (Surfactant science series ; 158)

"A CRC title."

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-4200-8921-9 (hardcover : alk. paper) 1. Composite materials. 2.

Composite materials--Electric properties. 3. Composite materials--Thermal

properties. 4. Metallic composites--Electric properties. 5. Metallic

composites--Thermal properties. 6. Mechanical alloying. I. Title.

TA418.9.C6P345 2015

620.1'189--dc23

2014024208

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*To the memory of my parents,
Smt Karma-Bhari and Shri Khushal Chand*

Preface

Composite materials are blends of two or more materials of different physical properties. The individual materials are immiscible with each other and exist as distinct phases. Thus, composite materials are multiphase materials consisting of two or more phases. Different materials are mixed together with the purpose of generating superior materials having properties better than those of the individual materials. Composite materials are a rapidly growing class of materials, with applications in industries such as plastics, automotive, electronic, packaging, aircraft, space, sports, and the biomedical field.

In the design, processing, and applications of composite materials, a thorough understanding of the physical properties is required. It is important to be able to predict the variations of the electromagnetic (electrical conductivity, dielectric constant, and magnetic permeability), mechanical; thermal (thermal conductivity and coefficient of thermal expansion), and mass transport properties of composite materials with the kind, shape, and concentration of filler materials. The filler material may consist of equiaxed particles ranging anywhere from nanometers to microns in size, discontinuous short fibers or whiskers, small disk- or plate-shaped particles/flakes, or core-and-shell type of complex particles.

A number of excellent books are available on composite materials, but for the most part, they are restricted to classification, applications, and manufacturing of composite materials along with the characterization of mechanical properties. The electromagnetic, thermal, and mass transport properties of composite materials have generally received little attention as compared with the mechanical properties even though they are equally important from a practical point of view.

The study of electrical, dielectric, and magnetic properties of composite materials can reveal valuable information regarding the morphology and composition of such systems. For example, the dielectric probes could be used to probe the microstructure and to estimate the filler content of composites, especially when the dielectric constants of the individual materials are significantly different from each other. The electrical properties of composites are important in the design of plastics used in the electronics industry. Pure plastics tend to pick up electrostatic charges, especially under low-humidity conditions. When earthed, the (charged) plastics discharge and, in the process, damage electronic circuitry and equipment. To overcome the problems associated with electrostatic charge of plastics, electrically conducting filler particles (such as carbon black) are incorporated into the plastic matrix. The incorporation of electrically conducting filler particles into the plastic matrix imparts electrical conductivity to the plastic system, and as a consequence, the buildup of static charge is avoided. The magnetic properties of composite materials are of interest in many industrial applications involving electrical and electronic instruments, electrical power generators and transformers, electric motors, radio, television, telephones, computers, audio and video equipment, etc.

The thermal properties of composite materials are important in many practical applications. For example, knowledge of the coefficient of thermal expansion (CTE) of composites is required in calculating dimensional changes and buildup of internal stresses when composites are subjected to temperature changes. In designing a composite material, it is often necessary to match the CTE of different components. The other very important thermal property of composite materials is their thermal conductivity. In the electronics industry, the packaging material used to encapsulate electronic devices must have a high thermal conductivity in order to dissipate the heat generated by the device as rapidly and effectively as possible. Particulate composites consisting of polymer matrix and heat-conducting fillers are used for this purpose. Polymers filled with heat-conducting fillers provide the required thermal conductivity while maintaining the electrical insulation properties of the polymers. It has been recently discovered that the addition of a small amount of nanoparticles (such as carbon nanotubes and copper nanoparticles) can greatly improve the thermal conductivity of polymers.

The mass transport properties of composite materials are important in the design and application of composite membranes. Composite membranes are extensively used in the separation of gas mixtures. In the packaging industry, composite membranes are used as barrier films.

The aim of this book is to provide a systematic and comprehensive coverage of the electromagnetic, mechanical, thermal, and mass transport properties of composite materials. Throughout the book, the analogy between various properties is emphasized. The book draws heavily on the work of the author on physical properties of composite materials.

The first chapter of the book discusses the important applications of composite materials and the relevance of electromagnetic, mechanical, and transport properties. The book is then organized in three parts: Electromagnetic properties of composites (Sections I and II), Mechanical properties of composites (Section III), and Transport properties of composites (Sections IV and V). Section I, titled Static electromagnetic properties of composites, deals with the electromagnetic properties of composite materials subjected to time-invariant electric and magnetic fields. It consists of three chapters. Chapter 2 describes the electrical conductivity of composites, Chapter 3 the dielectric properties, and Chapter 4 describes the magnetic properties of composites. Section II, titled General treatment of electromagnetic phenomena in composites, deals with the dynamic electromagnetic properties of composite materials subjected to time-varying electric and magnetic fields. This section consists of two chapters. Chapter 5 deals with the fundamental aspects of electromagnetic phenomena. The general laws of electromagnetism (Maxwell equations) and the generalized conductivity principle are discussed. Chapter 6 describes the complex electromagnetic properties of composites. The frequency dependence of electromagnetic properties of composite materials is also discussed in details. Section III (Mechanical properties of composites) consists of seven chapters. Chapter 7 describes the mechanical properties of *dilute* particulate-filled composites. The mechanical properties of *concentrated* composites are described in Chapters 8 through 11. The influence of interfacial and interphase effects on the mechanical properties of composites is discussed in Chapter 12. The viscoelastic behavior of

composite materials is covered in Chapter 13. Section IV, titled Heat transfer in composites, consists of seven chapters. Chapters 14 and 15 cover the fundamental aspects of heat transfer. Chapters 16 and 17 describe the thermal conductivity of particulate composites. The influence of interfacial contact resistance on the thermal conductivity of composites is covered in Chapter 18. The thermal diffusivity and coefficient of thermal expansion of composites are dealt with in Chapter 19. The radiative heat transfer properties of composite materials are described in Chapter 20. Section V, titled Mass transfer in composites, consists of Chapters 21 through 24. Chapter 21 covers the fundamentals of diffusion mass transfer. The diffusion mass transfer in composite membranes is described in Chapter 22. Chapter 23 deals with the fundamentals of convective mass transfer, and Chapter 24 covers convective mass transfer in composite materials.

I hope that scientists, engineers, and students from a broad range of fields will find this book an attractive and comprehensive source of information on the subject. The book provides both an introduction to the subject for newcomers and sufficient in-depth coverage for those involved in research related to the electromagnetic, mechanical, and transport phenomena in composite materials.

Finally, I would like to thank my wife Archana and my children Anuva and Arnav for their love and constant support.

Rajinder Pal

Author

Rajinder Pal is a Professor of Chemical Engineering at the University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. He received the BTech degree (1981) in Chemical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, India, and a PhD degree (1987) in Chemical Engineering from the University of Waterloo. The author of more than 120 refereed journal publications and a book in the areas of rheological, mechanical, electromagnetic, and transport properties of dispersed systems (emulsions, suspensions, foams, particulate composites, and composite membranes), Dr. Pal is a fellow of the Chemical Institute of Canada. In recognition of his distinguished contributions in chemical engineering before the age of 40, he received the Syncrude Canada Innovation Award in 1998 from the Canadian Society for Chemical Engineering. In 2001, he received the Teaching Excellence Award of the Faculty of Engineering, University of Waterloo. Dr. Pal served as Associate Editor of the *Canadian Journal of Chemical Engineering* from 1992 to 2004. He is a registered Professional Engineer in the province of Ontario, Canada.

Contents

Preface..... xxiii
Authorxxvii

Chapter 1 Applications of Composite Materials..... 1
References5

SECTION I *Electromagnetic Properties
of Composites: Static Electromagnetic
Properties of Composites*

Chapter 2 Electrical Conductivity of Composites..... 11
2.1 Background..... 11
2.2 Electrical Conductivity of Composites..... 12
2.2.1 Empirical Rules of Mixtures..... 12
2.2.2 Theoretical Models..... 13
2.3 Electrical Percolation in Composites..... 21
2.4 Phase Inversion in Composites26
References29

Chapter 3 Dielectric Properties of Composites..... 31
3.1 Background..... 31
3.2 Dielectric Constant of Composites33
3.3 Influence of Interphase Region on Dielectric Behavior of
Composites39
References43

Chapter 4 Magnetic Properties of Composites 45
4.1 Background..... 45
4.2 Magnetic Properties of Composites48
4.3 Upper and Lower Bounds on Magnetic Permeability of
Composites 51
References 53

SECTION II *Electromagnetic Properties of Composites: General Treatment of Electromagnetic Phenomena in Composites*

Chapter 5	Maxwell Equations and the Generalized Conductivity Principle	57
5.1	Maxwell Equations	57
5.1.1	Constitutive Equations	58
5.1.2	Boundary Conditions	58
5.2	Time-Independent Electromagnetic Phenomena.....	60
5.2.1	Electrostatic Phenomena	60
5.2.2	Steady Electrical Phenomena.....	61
5.2.3	Magnetostatic Phenomena.....	62
5.2.4	Summary	62
5.3	Time-Harmonic Electric and Magnetic Fields.....	63
5.3.1	Quasistationary Approximation	66
5.3.2	Boundary Conditions	67
5.3.3	Comparison of Governing Equations.....	68
	Supplemental Reading.....	69
Chapter 6	Complex Electromagnetic Properties of Composites.....	71
6.1	Complex Permittivity of Composites	71
6.1.1	Models for Complex Permittivity of Composites.....	76
6.1.2	Comparison of Model Predictions with Experimental Data	79
6.1.3	Influence of Interphase Region on the Complex Permittivity of Composites.....	82
6.2	Complex Magnetic Permeability of Composites.....	90
6.2.1	Models for Complex Magnetic Permeability of Composites	93
6.2.2	Experimental Observations on Complex Magnetic Permeability of Composites	95
	References	98

SECTION III *Mechanical Properties of Composites*

Chapter 7	Mechanical Properties of Dilute Particulate-Filled Composites	101
7.1	Background.....	101
7.2	Empirical Rules of Mixtures	102
7.2.1	Voigt Rule of Mixtures.....	102
7.2.2	Reuss Rule of Mixtures	103