

# **Advances in Materials and Processing Technologies XVI**

Edited by  
Zone-Ching Lin, You-Min Huang and Liang-Kuang Chen



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# **Advances in Materials and Processing Technologies XVI**

Selected, peer reviewed papers from the  
16<sup>th</sup> International Conference on  
Advanced Materials and Processing Technologies  
(AMPT 2013),  
September 22-26, 2013, Taipei, Taiwan

*Edited by*

**Zone-Ching Lin, You-Min Huang and Liang-Kuang Chen**



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## Preface

The present volume contains selected papers from the 16<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Advanced Materials and Processing Technologies (AMPT 2013) held in Taipei, Taiwan. This conference was co-organized by the SME (Society of Manufacturing Engineers) Taipei Chapter, and the National Taiwan University of Science and Technology (NTUST).

AMPT 2013 is the 16<sup>th</sup> event in the series, and furthermore, is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary since its inauguration. With two decades of glorious and well-recognized experiences, AMPT 2013 is a major global event in the manufacturing research community and industry. This event has been a good opportunity for expert engineers and researchers to share their new ideas and progresses in manufacturing engineering. This conference covers a wide range of fields including manufacturing processes, materials, automation and control, mechanical design, manufacturing management, and bio-medical manufacturing. This year, the theme of the conference is set as “Advanced Materials Processing and Manufacturing Technologies through Multi-disciplinary Integration.” This volume presents a selection of papers submitted to AMPT2013 from universities and industries all over the world. All of the papers were rigorously reviewed by at least two expert referees. Selection of papers for this volume is primarily based on the paper quality and relevancy to the theme. The volume aims to present to the readers the necessity of integration in the field of materials and processing technologies including the forming, machining, automation, manufacturing systems, metrology, precision engineering, computer-aided engineering, and micro/nano technology. It can be regarded as a highlight of recent multi-disciplinary integrations in the materials and processing technologies.

The organizing committee is grateful to all of the contributors who made this volume possible. As the guest editors of the volume, we wish to acknowledge all of those who have reviewed and revised the papers for this volume. Thanks are also due to Miss Wei-Jen Wang at the National Taiwan University of Science and Technology for her clerical and administrative work; and Trans Tech Publications for producing the volume.

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# Table of Contents

Preface	v
Conference Organizers	vi

## I. Material Science and Processing

<b>A Structure and Morphology of Nanocomposites Composed of Carbon Nanotubes with a Varying Fraction of Platinum Nanoparticles</b>	
A.D. Dobrzańska-Danikiewicz, M. Pawlyta and D. Łukowiec	3
<b>Analysis of Influence of Aluminum Content on Inclusion Characteristic and Fatigue Life of Bearing Steel Using Statistics of Extreme Values</b>	
C.C. Hsu and H.H. Chung	11
<b>Deformation Behavior of Adhesive Layer in Stretch-Bending/Unbending for Adhesively Bonded Sheet Metals</b>	
M. Takiguchi, T. Tokuda, T. Yoshida, T. Uemori and F. Yoshida	19
<b>Deformation Behaviour of TRIP Steel Monitored by <i>In Situ</i> Neutron Diffraction</b>	
J. Zrník, O. Muránsky and P. Sittner	25
<b>Deformation Evolution of a Zr-Based Bulk Metallic Glass under Three-Point Bending Tests</b>	
S.H. Chen, K.C. Chan and L. Xia	31
<b>Effect of Interference-Fit on Fatigue Life for Composite Lap Joints</b>	
H.Q. Xue, Q. Tao and E. Bayraktar	39
<b>Effect of Temperature on Cyclic Behavior of AZ31 Mg Alloy Sheet</b>	
T. Katahira, S. Hosokawa, T. Naka, M. Kohzu, H. Adachi and F. Yoshida	47
<b>Effects of Scoring Depth, Tracking Angle, Rubbing on Bending-Moment Relaxation of Creased Paperboard</b>	
S. Nagasawa, Y. Shiga and Y. Fukuzawa	53
<b>Harmonic Structure Design of Co-Cr-Mo Alloy with Outstanding Mechanical Properties</b>	
C. Sawangrat, O. Yamaguchi, S.K. Vajpai and K. Ameyama	60
<b>New Design of Aluminium Based Composites through Combined Method of Powder Metallurgy and Thixoforming</b>	
L.M.P. Ferreira, M.H. Robert, E. Bayraktar and D. Zaimova	68
<b>Research of Large-Area Electrical Discharge Machining for Insulating Si<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> Ceramics with the Assisting Electrode Method</b>	
D. Hanaoka, Y. Fukuzawa and K. Yamashita	76
<b>Role of Halloysite Nanoparticles and Milling Time on the Synthesis of AA 6061 Aluminium Matrix Composites</b>	
L.A. Dobrzański, B. Tomiczek, G. Matula and K. Gołombek	84
<b>Tensile Properties and Microstructure of Joined Vacuum Die Cast Aluminum Alloy A356 (T6) and Wrought Alloy 6061</b>	
M. Wang, Y.D. Zou, H. Hu, G. Meng, P. Cheng and Y.L. Chu	90

<b>Processing of Epoxy-Nickel Matrix Composites Reinforced with Aluminum and Waste Elastomers</b>	
D. Zaimova, E. Bayraktar, M.J. Tan and I. Miskioglu .....	98
<b>Wear Resistance of Elastomeric Based Composites by Continuous Multi-Cycle Indentation Used in Manufacturing Engineering</b>	
D. Zaimova, E. Bayraktar, I. Miskioglu and N. Dishovsky .....	106
<b>New Design of Composite Materials Based on Scrap Rubber Matrix Reinforced with Epoxy and SiC</b>	
D. Zaimova, E. Bayraktar, I. Miskioglu, D. Katundi and N. Dishovsky .....	114
<b>YSZ-Reinforced Mg-Based Amorphous Composites: Processing, Characterisation &amp; Corrosion</b>	
Y.S. Wang, M.J. Tan, B.W. Chua and E. Bayraktar .....	122
<b>Search for Rapid Quality Control of Ni-Cr-Mo Low Alloy Steels Using Multifaceted Approaches for Fracture Toughness Estimation</b>	
K.K. Ray, V.P.R.J. Chegondi, U. Roy and R.N. Jha .....	130
<b>Shaping Porous, Low Density Al Composites by AWJ Cutting Process</b>	
D. Kramar, E.M. Nascimento, A.F. Jorge, J. Kopač and M.H. Robert .....	138
<b>Tensile Property of Electrochemically Polished Titanium Alloy</b>	
T. Ikushima, T. Shimizu and M. Yang .....	146
<b>The Effect of Particle Deformation on Densification of 316L Stainless Steel under Micro-FAST</b>	
X.Z. Yang, Y. Yang, G. Yang, Y. Qin and D.Q. Yin .....	152

## II. Advanced Machining

<b>Application of Electrochemical Discharge Machining to Micro-Machining of Quartz</b>	
K.L. Wu, S.M. Lee and K.H. Chin .....	161
<b>Application of Idling Stop Technology for Servo Motors in Machine Tool Operations to Reduce Electric Power Consumption</b>	
T. Nagawaki, T. Hirogaki, E. Aoyama and K. Ogawa .....	169
<b>Applications of Optical Path Length Compensation Technology for High Power CO<sub>2</sub> Laser Cutting Process</b>	
Z.C. Chen and L.J. Pan .....	177
<b>Bonding PDMS Microfluidic Devices to PMMA and Glass Substrate Using Pulsed UV Laser Technology</b>	
C.C. Yang, W.T. Hsiao, C.K. Chung and K.C. Huang .....	186
<b>Finite Element Modeling of the Effect of Tool Rake Angle on Cutting Force and Tool Temperature during High Speed Machining of AISI 1045 Steel</b>	
S. Sulaiman, M.K.A. Ariffin and A. Roshan .....	194
<b>Investigation of Chatter Vibration in End-Milling Process by Considering Coupled System Model</b>	
K. Hattori, H. Kodama, T. Hirogaki and E. Aoyama .....	201
<b>Micro Cutting of Biliary Stent with Nanosecond Fiber Laser System</b>	
P.T. Teng, F.Y. Chang, Y.T. Chang, P.C. Liang and K.W. Huang .....	209

<b>Temperature Distribution of Micro Milling Process due to Uncut Chip Thickness</b>	
B.T.H.T. Baharudin, K.P. Ng, S. Sulaiman, R. Samin and M.S. Ismail.....	214
<b>The Use of Supports to Fast Fabrication of Plastic Parts</b>	
T.D. Lin and A.C. Lin.....	222
<b>Effect of Optical Properties Characteristic Polymethylmethacrylate Using UV Laser Direct-Structuring</b>	
C.K. Chung, W.T. Hsaio, S.F. Tseng, K.C. Huang and M.F. Chen .....	230

### III. Geometry Analysis and Forming

<b>Effect of Punch Surface Topography on Friction in Micro Combined Forward and Backward Extrusion of Brass</b>	
C.C. Chang and C.P. Siao .....	239
<b>An Analytical Model for Deformation Path Design in Multistage Incremental Sheet Forming Process</b>	
Z.B. Liu, Y.L. Li, W.J.T.B. Daniel and P. Meehan .....	245
<b>Effect of Edge Shape of Tool in Finish Blanking</b>	
T. Yamada, Z.G. Wang and T. Fukao.....	253
<b>Forming Limits of Several High-Strength Steel Sheets under Proportional/Non-Proportional Deformation Paths</b>	
R. Hino, S. Yasuhara, Y. Fujii, A. Hirahara and F. Yoshida.....	260
<b>Stiffness Improvement of Stamping Die by Means of Topology Optimization</b>	
H. Hamasaki, M. Nakazono, R. Hino, F. Yoshida, H. Manabe, H. Kondo and V.V. Toropov .....	266
<b>Study on Step Depth for Part Accuracy Improvement in Incremental Sheet Forming Process</b>	
H.B. Lu, Y.L. Li, Z.B. Liu, S. Liu and P.A. Meehan.....	274

### IV. Forming Processes

<b>Bulging Investigation of Cylinder Compression Forming Using Upper Bound Analysis</b>	
S.C. Weng, G.Y. Tzou and B.L. Kuo .....	283
<b>A Study of Hole Flanging-Upsetting Process</b>	
G.X. Yan, X.Y. Wang, L. Deng and J.S. Jin.....	291
<b>Comparison of Cast and Extruded Stock for the Forging of AA6082 Alloy Suspension Parts</b>	
Y. Birol, O. Ilgaz, S. Akdi and E. Unuvar .....	299
<b>Effect of Counter Punch Pressure on Springback of High Strength Steel Sheet</b>	
K. Lawanwong, H. Hamasaki, R. Hino and F. Yoshida.....	305
<b>Experimental Study and Efficient Prediction on Forming Forces in Incremental Sheet Forming</b>	
Y.L. Li, Z.B. Liu, H.B. Lu, W.J.T.B. Daniel and P.A. Meehan .....	313



<b>Incremental Sheet Forming (ISF) of AISI 316 Stainless Steel Sheet Using CNC Milling Machine</b>	
M. Moayedfar, Z. Leman and B.T.H.T. Baharudin .....	322
<b>Influence of Pre-Generated Infinite Adhesive Defects on the Forming Behaviour of Adhesive Bonded Steel Sheets</b>	
V. Satheeshkumar and R.G. Narayanan.....	328
<b>Influence of Wire Reinforcement on the Forming Behaviour of Adhesive Bonded Steel Sheets</b>	
D. Doley, V. Satheeshkumar and R.G. Narayanan.....	336
<b>Influences of Process Conditions on Stretching Characteristics of Crystalline Polymer Film</b>	
L.Y. Chen, C.C. Su and R.H. Chen .....	342
<b>Precision Glass Molding of High Filling Factor Micro Lens Arrays</b>	
C.C. Chen, C.Y. Huang, W.J. Peng and W.Y. Hsu .....	349
<b>Research on Formability of Aluminum Alloy Automotive Panels by Using Viscous Pressure Forming</b>	
Y. Li, Z.J. Wang, D.Y. Lin and Y.P. Li .....	355
<b>Springback of Aluminum Alloy Sheet Metal and its Modeling</b>	
T. Uemori, S. Sumikawa, S. Tamura, T. Naka and F. Yoshida.....	361
<b>Theoretical and Experimental Studies on the Influence of Process Parameters on Strains and Forces of Single Point Incremental Forming</b>	
V. Oleksik, A. Pascu, E. Avrigean and I. Bondrea .....	367
<b>Verification of Numerical Roll Forming Loads with the Aid of Measurement Equipment</b>	
P. Groche, C. Mueller and L. Baeumer.....	373
<b>On Flow Layer Uniformity in the Co-Extrusion of Polymer Multilayer Film</b>	
G.C. Tzeng and R.H. Chen .....	381

## V. Forming with Temperature Influence

<b>Development of Looper Shape Meter and Verification Test Results in Hot Rolling</b>	
H. Furumoto, R. Kinose, S. Maniwa, O. Takao, K. Hayashi, S. Kanemori and S. Sueda.....	391
<b>Direct Thermal Method of Aluminium 7075</b>	
A.H. Ahmad, S. Naher and D. Brabazon .....	400
<b>Effect of Heating on Springback in Heat Assisted Microbending</b>	
T. Aoyama, T. Shimizu, Q. Zheng and M. Yang.....	409
<b>Flow Stress and Pyroplastic Behaviour of Ultra-Low Carbon Steel in Warm Temperature Range</b>	
N. Kong, H.T. Zhu, K. Tieu and Q. Zhu.....	415
<b>Influence of Cooling Conditions on Forming Performance of Hot Stamped and Press-Quenched Steel Sheet Part</b>	
S. Maki, Y. Kusunoki and E. Nakanishi .....	422
<b>Thermomechanical Forming of NiTi Shape Memory Alloy Wire</b>	
K.J. Fann and H.C. Hsu .....	430

### **Design and Test of a Rapid Thermal Annealing Furnace for Improving Surface Properties of Silicon Brick in Multi-Wire Sawing Process**

C.C.A. Chen, S.C. Cheng, M.H. Chan, W.C. Hsu and S.L. Cheng ..... 437

## **VI. Surface and Precision Engineering**

### **A New Approach to Calibration of Printed Circuit Board Coordinates: 2D-Depth Sensor Applied to Robotic Screwdrivers Assembly Systems**

S.P. Dong, H.W. Wang, T.Y. Wu and C.M. Yeh ..... 445

### **Deformation Behavior and Wear Resistance of Hard TiCN and TiCN/Ti Coatings on Ti6Al4V Alloy**

Y. Sun, C. Lu, H.L. Yu, A.K. Tieu, Q. Zhu, Y. Zhao and H.T. Zhu ..... 451

### **Design of Experiments to Study Slurry Erosive Wear Behavior of Inconel-718 Coatings on Copper**

C.S. Ramesh, R.S. Kumar, S. Ramakrishna and V.K.G. Kashyap ..... 459

### **Ga-Doped ZnO Films Deposited by Atmospheric Pressure Plasma**

J.M. Hsu, P.C. Ho, C.C. Chang and T.H. Chou ..... 465

### **A New Concept of the Sliding Compression Test to Independently Investigate the Contact Normal Stress and the Surface Enlargement**

P. Groche, C. Müller and M. Keller ..... 473

### **Development of a Self-Propelled Multi-Jet Polishing Tool for Ultra Precision Polishing**

A.A. Tsegaw and F.J. Shiou ..... 481

### **Surface Roughness Measurements of a Narrow Borehole — Development of Stylus with Cylindrical Mirror and Lensed Fiber**

E. Okuyama, W. Yoshinari, Y. Suzuki, R. Yoshida, I. Yoshida and M. Iwakata ..... 491

### **The Numerical Research of Drag Reduction over Bionic Fluctuation-Adaptive Non-Smooth Surface**

Y.L. Hu, M.L. Zhu, J. Xiao, X.Z. Wang and Z. Xu ..... 499

### **Assessment of Using Secondary Concentrators for Nonferrous Material Removal Applications**

A.H. Alami ..... 506

## **VII. Computer Aided Engineering**

### **A Study on the Structure Analysis of Skate for Transportation Using Composite Materials**

S.H. Ko, H.G. Kim, H.J. Shin, H.W. Kim, Y.J. Cha, I.P. Cha,  
G.C. Kim and L.K. Kwac ..... 517

### **A Study on the Warm Forging-Flaring Process of Brass Tube**

C.H. Liu, A.C. Wang, C.H. Lee and Y.M. Huang ..... 524

### **Dynamic Simulation and Analysis of Large-Scale Gear Reducers**

H.C. Hou and Y.R. Wu ..... 530

**Flow and Film-Forming Characteristics Analysis of Non-Newtonian Fluid Slot Coating**  
W.C. Shu, T.F. Wu, R.H. Chen, K.Y. Cheng and C.W. Hsieh..... 539

**Investigation of Drilling Conditions of Printed Circuit Board Based on Data Mining Method from Tool Catalog Data-Base**  
H. Haneda, H. Kodama, T. Hirogaki, E. Aoyama and K. Ogawa ..... 547

**Investigation of Gear Meshing Noise of Planetary Gear Mechanism for Hybrid Vehicles**  
T. Miyata, L.B. Kang, T. Hirogaki and E. Aoyama..... 555

**Prediction of Maximum Forging Load and Billet Volume Using FEM of a Near Net-Shaped Helical-Bevel Gear Forging**  
T.S. Yang, J.H. Liang and J. Chang..... 563

**Study on Utilizing Rapid Prototyping Technology to Build Oral and Maxillofacial Models**  
Y.L. Cheng and W.S. Lu..... 570

**The Development of a Cross-Flow Fan for Electronic Devices Cooling with a Focus on Laptop Computers**  
A.T. Li and R.Q. Hsu..... 577

**The Study on the Boltzmann Distribution of Ideal Gas under Gravitational Field by Computer Simulation**  
J.C. Huang and F.J. Cheng..... 584

**The Effect of Seat Tube Angle (STA) on Muscle Tension Leg Riders**  
I.M.L. Batan, D. Harnany and E. Rinaldi ..... 592

**Generalized Two-Point Method for Straightness Profile Measurement - Error Propagation and Experimental Results**  
E. Okuyama, S. Asano, Y. Suzuki and H. Ishikawa ..... 600

**VIII. Automation and Manufacturing Systems**

**Control of Service Robot by Integration of Multiple Intermittent Sensors**  
L.K. Chen and M.Y. Hsiao ..... 609

**Development of an Advanced Semi-Active Damper Using Smart Fluid**  
M.M. Ferdous, M.M. Rashid and M.M.I. Bhuiyan..... 615

**Hybrid Genetic Algorithm for Solving Assembly Line Balancing Problem in Footwear Industry**  
J.C. Chen, C.W. Wu, T.D.D. Thao, L.H. Su, W.H. Hsieh and T. Chen ..... 623

**Performance Analysis of an Open-Cathode PEM Fuel Cell Stack**  
H.L. Chiang, T.L. Feng, A. Su and Z.M. Huang ..... 630

**A Survey of Sustainable Design-Centered Integration for Medical Additive Manufacturing**  
S.H.M. Wang, Y.R. Qu, C.C.A. Chen and S.P. Chang..... 635

## IX. Micro/Nano Technology

<b>Development and Optimization of a Low Normal Force Contact</b> M.M.I. Bhuiyan, T. Bin Alamgir and M.M. Rashid .....	647
<b>Mechanism of TiO<sub>2</sub> Nanotubes Formation on the Surface of Pure Ti and Ti-6Al-4V Alloy</b> T.D. Dikova, M.G. Hahm, D.P. Hashim, N.T. Narayanan, R. Vajtai and P.M. Ajayan.....	655
<b>Nano-Scale Control Design and its' Practical Implementation of Piezoelectric Materials</b> Y.Y. Chen .....	663
<b>The Nanostructure Fabrication on Conductive Diamond-like Carbon Thin Film by Nano-Oxidation Technique</b> J.C. Huang, H. Chang and H.T. Ling.....	671
<b>The Study of Aluminum Pattern on Phosphors Anode in Field Emission Device</b> C.C. Chang, L.W. Zheng, W.H. Tsai and J. Lo .....	679
<b>The Study on the Ultrasound Assisted Atomic Force Microscopy Base Nanomachining</b> J.C. Huang, Y.J. Weng, H.S. Liu, F.C. Tsai and F.J. Cheng .....	684
<b>Keyword Index .....</b>	693
<b>Author Index .....</b>	697

# **I. Material Science and Processing**



## A STRUCTURE AND MORPHOLOGY OF NANOCOMPOSITES COMPOSED OF CARBON NANOTUBES WITH A VARYING FRACTION OF PLATINUM NANOPARTICLES

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**Keywords:** nanocomposite materials, platinum nanoparticles, SEM, TEM, STEM, XRD

**Abstract.** A structure of nanocomposite materials consisting of carbon nanotubes with a varying fraction of platinum nanoparticles (5, 10 and 20 wt %) is compared in the paper. High-quality CNTs obtained in the CVD process, 100-200 μm long with a standard deviation of below 20% and with a diameter of 10-20 nm, with a standard deviation of below 30%, were used in the research. Raw CNTs did not contain metallic impurities or amorphous carbon deposits. An indirect method of bonding the earlier produced platinum nanoparticles to the surface of functionalised carbon nanotubes was employed to deposit platinum nanoparticles onto the surface of carbon nanotubes. A full array of changes in the loading of carbon nanotubes' surface with platinum nanoparticles was achieved as a result of the experiments performed, starting with homogenous deposition to the clearly developed large agglomerations of platinum nanoparticles. The studies carried out using scanning electron microscopy, transmission electron microscopy, scanning transmission electron microscopy and X-ray structural analysis have confirmed differences in the morphology, homogeneity and density of coating the carbon nanotubes' surface with variedly concentrated platinum nanoparticles. Differences were also revealed in the structure of the newly formed nanocomposites. A nanocomposite with a 5% fraction of platinum nanoparticles demonstrates the best structure-related properties for the materials obtained.

### Introduction

Numerous research institutions around the world have been interested in the recent years in interdisciplinary knowledge about nanostructures and their manufacturing technologies and this is accompanied by rapid development in research in this field. Carbon Nanotubes (CNT), being objects built of rolled graphene planes with the diameter of a fraction of nanometre to several dozen nanometres with their length reaching up to several micrometers, have enjoyed strong interest of scientists [1-4]. Due to their unique electrical, mechanical, chemical, magnetic and optical properties, are currently a subject of extensive research from laboratories around the globe [2, 5]. A prerequisite for the practical exploitation of carbon nanotubes' potential application opportunities on a wide scale is an ability to build larger structures and combine them with other materials in a planned and controlled manner. Carbon nanotubes deposition methods using various types of nanoparticles, in particular SiO<sub>2</sub>, TiO<sub>2</sub>, Ti, Pd, Ag, Pt, Au, Cu, CdS, CdSe, CdTe, are described in the literature [5-10]. The results presented in scientific publications confirm that CNT-NPs (Carbon NanoTubes-NanoParticles) nanocomposites can be fabricated this way, however, the efficiency of the methods described is not always satisfactory on a practical basis. Further research is still needed to optimise the solutions proposed. It is in particular clearly necessary to develop more effective, repeatable technologies, better suited to specific applications and permitting to deposit nanocrystals possessing complex morphologies and dispersion.

The carbon nanotubes-nanoparticles-type nanocomposites represent a valuable material due to a combination of unique physical and chemical properties of their components [11]. The both components feature a large specific surface area and high electrical conductivity. Carbon nanotubes

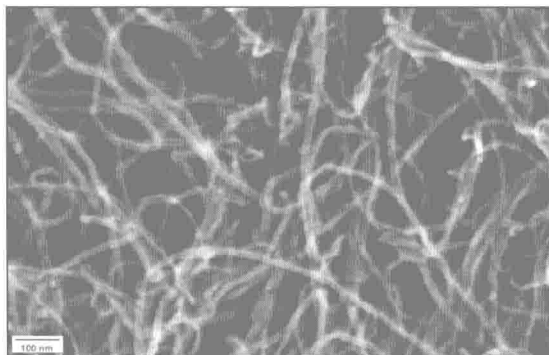
with the density of approx.  $1.33\text{--}1.40\text{ g/cm}^3$  are light, flexible and resistant to bending, stretching and torsion. The bonds between the atoms of carbon in carbon nanotubes are stronger than in diamond, besides, their area is chemically and thermally stable. It has been confirmed that the conductivity of carbon nanotubes changes as a result of interaction with the molecules of multiple chemical substances, both fluids and gases [12, 13], and the effect is even stronger after depositing the nanoparticles of precious metals onto their surface (e.g.: Au, Ag, Pt, Pd, Rh) [14–16]. A major issue relating to the use of CNT-NPs nanocomposites is to control the efficiency of uniformity of nanoparticles deposition onto nanotubes' surface. In order to resolve this issue, it is of essence to explain a formation mechanism of the nanostructures developed and determine the type and quantity of defects occurring in the deposition process. Significant progress can be achieved in such areas as optoelectronics, medicine, energy conversion and storage, with practical applications of such materials in those areas being very wide, by popularising effective procedures of deposition of metal nanoparticles onto carbon nanotubes' surface [17–20].

A structure and morphology of the fabricated nanocomposite materials composed of carbon nanotubes and platinum nanoparticles, with a varying weight fraction (5, 10 and 20 wt %), is compared in this paper. An indirect method of bonding the earlier produced platinum nanoparticles to the surface of functionalised carbon nanotubes was employed to deposit platinum nanoparticles onto the surface of carbon nanotubes. A varying volume fraction of platinum is affecting the structure and morphology of the nanocomposites manufactured. The stage of carbon nanotubes functionalisation plays an essential role in the nanocomposite manufacturing process as such process is conditioning the number of function groups produced ( $-\text{COOH}$ ,  $-\text{COH}$ ,  $-\text{CO}$ ) [21, 22], corresponding to the number of free spaces to which platinum nanoparticles can be connected. A yet unconfirmed hypothesis argues that an unsatisfactory number of function groups developed on the surface of nanotubes may be one of the reasons for agglomeration of platinum nanoparticles. The investigations of the structure and morphology of the materials obtained have been carried out with Electron Transmission Microscopy (TEM), Scanning Transmission Electron Microscopy (STEM) and Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM). The phase and chemical composition of the nanocomposites manufactured was determined in an X-ray qualitative and quantitative phase analysis.

### Research materials and methodology

High quality carbon nanotubes with the length of  $100\text{--}200\text{ }\mu\text{m}$  and diameter of  $10\text{--}20\text{ nm}$  obtained in Chemical Vapour Deposition (CVD) were used for the investigations (Fig. 1). The CNTs produced did not contain metallic impurities or amorphous carbon deposits. A commercially available 8% chloroplatinic acid  $\text{H}_2\text{PtCl}_6$  was used for synthesising platinum nanoparticles.

a)



b)

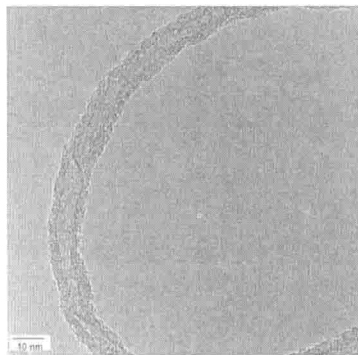


Fig. 1 Unmodified carbon nanotubes: a) SEM image, b) TEM image



Carbon nanotubes possess hydrophobic properties standing for low wettability by fluids, which directly means that their surface can be coated with nanoparticles of metals to a limited extent. To improve efficiency of the process of depositing platinum nanoparticles onto the surface of carbon nanotubes, their functionalisation is necessary. Carbon nanotubes are immersed in a mixture of concentrated  $\text{HNO}_3\text{-H}_2\text{SO}_4$  acids at a rate of 1:3. To disperse carbon nanotubes in a mixture of acids, a beaker was placed for 30 minutes in an ultrasound scrubber, and then a solution with nanotubes was left covered for 24 hrs. The same nanotubes treatment procedure with, respectively, submerging, ultrasound dispersion and leaving under cover, has been made using a 30%  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  solution. Carbon nanotubes were permeated following the functionalisation process, washed 5 times in deionised water and dried for 12h at  $120^\circ\text{C}$ .

Pt was precipitated as a result of the reduction reaction of a chloroplatinic acid mixture  $\text{H}_2\text{PtCl}_6$  with ethylene glycol. The functionalised carbon nanotubes, with 15 ml ethylene glycol added, were dispersed in an ultrasound washer in a process lasting 30 minutes. 5 ml of acetone was added to the suspension obtained during constant mixing with a magnetic stirrer. Depending on the planned loading of nanotubes with platinum nanoparticles (5, 10 and 20 wt %) a suitably measured amount of chloroplatinic acid  $\text{H}_2\text{PtCl}_6$  was added to the suspension using a pipette. All this was heated under a reflux condenser for 8 h at  $140^\circ\text{C}$ . The nanotubes produced were then filtered and washed 5 times in deionised water. The nanotubes were dried for 12 hours at  $120^\circ\text{C}$  following decoration.

The nanostructures obtained were observed using electron microscopes: a scanning and transmission microscope. SEM images were made using a scanning electron microscope SEM Supra 35 by Carl Zeiss equipped with the X radiation spectrometers: an energy dispersion EDS and wavelength WDS spectrometer and a system for analysing diffraction of back scattered electrons EBSD by EDAX. High resolution and the precision imaging of the preparations viewed was achieved by applying high-performance In-lens SE detector working with low beam voltage and with a very small distance of the preparation tested to the electron gun (working distance). The specimens viewed of the carbon nanotubes decorated with Pt nanoparticles were imaged without depositing conductive layers. TEM and STEM images were performed using a transmission electron microscope STEM TITAN 80-300 by FEI fitted with an electron gun with FEG field emission, a condenser spherical aberration corrector, STEM scanning system, light and dark field detectors, HAADF (High Angle Annular Dark Field), Electron Energy-Loss Spectroscopy EELS, Energy-filtering transmission electron microscope EFTEM, EDS spectrometer as well as equipment and software permitting to implement the electron tomography technique. The exact imaging of the materials examined was possible by applying an HAADF detector (Z contrast). Platinum nanoparticles, due to the different numbers of carbon and platinum atoms: C ( $Z=6$ ), Pt ( $Z=78$ ), were seen as lightly illuminating precipitates on the surface of carbon nanotubes. The materials for transmission electron microscopy investigations were prepared by dispersing the nanocomposites obtained in ethanol using an ultrasound washer, and then by depositing them using a pipette with beads onto a TEM mesh. A copper grids coated with a carbon film was used. The material deposited as beads was dried with free air at room temperature. A phase and chemical composition analysis of the examined materials was carried out by means of an X-ray diffraction diagram X'Pert Pro by Panalytical ( $\text{Cu K}_\alpha$  radiation,  $\lambda = 1.54050 \text{ \AA}$ ) fitted with a semiconductor (band) X'Celerator detector.

## Experiment results

Fig. 2 presents the results of observations of carbon nanotubes with a weight volume 5 % of platinum nanoparticles made with a scanning electron microscope SEM. Platinum nanoparticles arranged uniformly on the surface of carbon nanotubes are seen on the photographs as light smudges visible on the twisted nanotubes.

The images of carbon nanotubes decorated with platinum nanoparticles with a varying weight fraction of nanoparticles, i.e.: 5, 10 and 20 %, representing the results of own observations made with a transmission electron microscope, are presented in respectively Fig. 3, Fig.4 and Fig.5. A full array of changes in the loading of carbon nanotubes' surface with platinum nanoparticles was