

Studies on Wear Behaviour of Coated RHA-TiO₂-LM24 Aluminium Alloy Composite

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ABSTRACT

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Liquid metallurgy method based aluminium matrix composites (AMCs) are extensively utilized in diverse engineering applications including shipbuilding, structural, non-structural, automotive, and aerospace owing to their superior strength, weightless, low density, excellent corrosion, and wear resistance. In the present research work, liquid state technique is employed to prepare the LM4/RHA/TiO₂ composites containing four different mass proportion of RHA and TiO₂. The weight proportion of reinforcements ie RHA-1,3&5 and TiO₂ 2,5&6 respectively. From the dry sliding wear studies, it is evident that the incorporation of RHA and TiO₂ particles into the LM24 aluminium matrix alloy increases the wear resistance properties up to 45% as compared with the dry sliding behaviour of pure aluminium LM4 alloy. Dry sliding wear results revealed that the parameters like varying weight percentage, sliding speed, and applied load are the direct impact on the wear behaviour of the hybrid composites. A reduction of up to 34 % wear rate was observed by incorporation of 5% of RHA and 1% & 6 % of TiO₂ particles as compared with the remaining percentage of reinforcements. The developed Coated RHA-TiO₂ -LM24 aluminum alloy composite exhibits excellent mechanical properties, can be used in long-term applications in which saving weight is an important feature, such applications include and automotive engine parts and aerospace industry. In automotive industry, it can be used for making Brake disc, Turbo-compressors, Pump supporting parts, rear axle, differential housing.

Keywords : LM4/RHA/TiO₂, wear, Pin and Disc, And Rice husk.

I. INTRODUCTION

Aluminium alloys have excellent mechanical properties coupled with good corrosion resistance. However, they possess poor wear and seizure resistance. To improve the above said properties, researchers have successfully dispersed various hard and soft reinforcements such as SiO₂, SiC, Al₂O₃, flyash, glass, WC, graphite, mica, and coconut shell char in aluminium alloys by different processing routes. Of all the processing routes, liquid metallurgy method is the most sought after owing to its several advantages such as economical mass production, near net shaped components can be produced. In recent years, aluminium alloy-based metal matrix composites (MMCs) are being explored as candidate materials in several interesting applications such as piston, connecting rod, contactors, where sliding is a key component.

Aluminium alloys (or aluminium alloys; see spelling differences) are alloys in which aluminium (Al) is the predominant metal. The typical alloying elements are copper, magnesium, manganese, silicon, tin and zinc. There are two principal classifications, namely casting alloys and wrought alloys, both of which are further subdivided into the categories heat-treatable and non-heat-treatable. About 85% of aluminium is used for wrought products, for example rolled plate, foils and extrusions. Cast aluminium alloys yield cost-effective products due to the low melting point, although they generally have lower tensile strengths than wrought alloys. The most important cast aluminium alloy system is Al-Si, where the high levels of silicon (4.0–13%) contribute to give good casting characteristics. Aluminium alloys are widely used in engineering structures and components where light weight or corrosion resistance is required.

Presently, aluminium based reinforced metal matrix composites have huge demand and keen attention by researchers due to its light weight, high strength and high stiffness. Aluminium metal matrix finds a wide range of applications in aerospace, automotive, marine, rail etc. SiC and Al₂O₃ are the most commonly used ceramic materials for the reinforcement of Aluminium. A perfect replacement of the reinforcement materials SiC and Al₂O₃ could be Boron Carbide due its high hardness. Nano materials are the cornerstones of nano science and nano technology. Nano structured science and technology is a broad and interdisciplinary area of research and development activities that has been growing explosively worldwide in past few years. It has the potential for revolutionizing the way in which the material and the products are created. It is already having the significant commercial impact which will assuredly increase in future. Reinforcement of nano materials in the aluminium matrix will increase the mechanical properties of the material considerably.

Aluminium metal matrix can be fabricated through various methods such as liquid stir casting, powder metallurgy, spray deposition etc. Each fabrication method has different unique way for the fabrication. Based on the study of literature, liquid stir casting method is the most economical and suitable method for the fabrication of aluminium metal matrix composites. The reinforcement material binds together with the matrix material to carry the load and distributes the load to the individual reinforcement. The characterization of micro structures of the composite is necessary as the interface between the matrix material and the reinforcement material plays an important role in the metal matrix properties. The mechanical properties of the aluminium metal matrix composites can be

increased by decreasing the size of the reinforcement material to nanometre. The objective of this work is to produce Al [LM24]– Risk Husk ash(RHA)/TiO₂ composites with different proportion of RHA and TiO₂, using liquid stir casting method. The fabricated composites were examined for structural and mechanical properties.

In recent time, commendable work has taken place in the field of Metal Matrix Composites. The results of which have shown us their tremendous capacity in enhancing the favourable properties of aluminium and its alloys. Metal matrixes with the suitable reinforcement have addressed a range of new requirements. A lot of work has been carried out in the field of E-Glass fibres reinforced aluminium matrix composites which makes it very clear that this combination is a very popular one. Al alloy matrix composite with homogeneous distribution of a variety of non-metallic particles and fibres ranging in size from 0.06 µm to 800 µm were rationally fabricated, cast and hot extruded. Composites containing hard non-metallic particles such as Ceramic, TiC, Al₂O₃, glass slag exhibited lower wear than the pure matrix alloy. Addition of E-Glass to the composites also gives good mechanical properties.

A lot of research has been done on aluminium alloy 1XXX to aluminum 6XXX based composites but research on LM24 based composites is very rare, also the properties of these composites are still not clear. Against this background, the present research work has been undertaken, with an objective to study the effect of different composition of reinforcement as Rice husk ash and TiO₂ on the LM24 based metal matrix composites.

II. METHODS AND MATERIAL

A. MATERIALS.

The reinforcement materials and matrix materials used in the present research are tabulated in table.

Table 2.1: Specifications of the materials used in the project work

Sl No	Materials
01	LM24
02	Rice Husk Ash
03	TiO ₂

B. Material Selection.

LM 24:

The selection of material is based on the properties, cost and the area of application where it is needed. In metal matrix composites, mostly pure aluminium are being used for its light weight and good corrosive resistance. Aluminium cast alloys have a great scope and application in the current scenario. Aluminium LM4 is selected as the base material which has high static load that are anticipated and creep extinction at elevated high temperature. This cast alloy conforms to BS 1490:1988 standards which contains silicon as the major constituent.

Rice husk

The RHA is obtained from rice husk which is an agricultural waste produced after removing the peels of rice crop. The removed peels are waste material but can be used as a suitable reinforcement particle through processing. The rice husk is organic in nature containing about 70- 90 % of matter in form of cellulose, lignin and minerals like silica, alkalis etc. Figure 1 shows rice husk.



Fig 2.1: Risk Husk



Fig 2.2: Coated Risk Husk ash

Titanium dioxide (TiO₂).

Rutile is one of three forms of titanium dioxide (TiO₂). It occurs in crystals, often in twins or rosettes, and is typically brownish red, although there are black varieties. Rutile is found in igneous and metamorphic rocks, chiefly in Switzerland, Norway, Brazil, and parts of the United States. Rutile is found naturally occurring in small quantities as impurities in iron oxide, chromium oxide and vanadium oxide. Rutile has a tetrahedral crystal structure (i.e. it has one fourfold axis) with 4/m 2/m 2/m symmetry. Its structure is made up of parallel chains of octahedrons, which are in turn composed of a titanium ion surrounded by six oxygen atoms. The model below shows the structure of the octahedron bases, although includes the unit cell edges.



Fig 2.3 : TiO₂

III. EXPERIMENT

WEAR TEST

This test method describes a laboratory procedure for determining the wear of materials during sliding using a pin-on-disk apparatus. Materials are tested in pairs under nominal non-abrasive conditions. The

principle areas of experimental attention in using this type of apparatus to measure wear are described. The coefficient of friction may also be determined. The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.

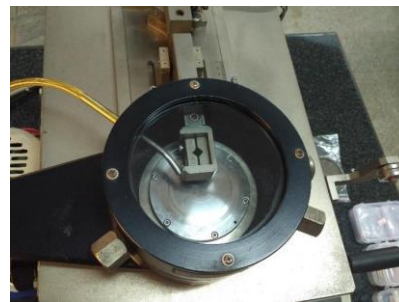


Fig 3.1: Pin on Disc Appartus.

The wear test was conducted using a pin-on-disc computerized wear testing machine as shown in figure in accordance with ASTM standards G99-95. The test uses the specimens of diameter of 6mm and length 25mm machined from the cast specimens.



Fig 3.2: Wear Test Specimens.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS.

Wear Test

The wear test was conducted using a pin on disc test machine in accordance with ASTM standard G99-05. Keeping other conditions same, Aluminum alloy with varying percentage of RHA and TiO₂ in were assessed for wear resistance. The Wear rate results of hybrid composite with different composition of reinforcement at different loads of 0.5 Kg, 1 Kg and 1.5 Kg with varying speed of 100, 300 and 500 rpm 20 minutes' duration.

Table 4.1: Wear rate of LM24, RHA and TiO₂ MMC at 0.5 Kg 100 rpm

Specimens	2 % TiO ₂	4 % TiO ₂	6 % TiO ₂
1% Risk husk ash	115	110	50
3% Risk husk ash	85	70	40
5% Risk husk ash	55	30	20

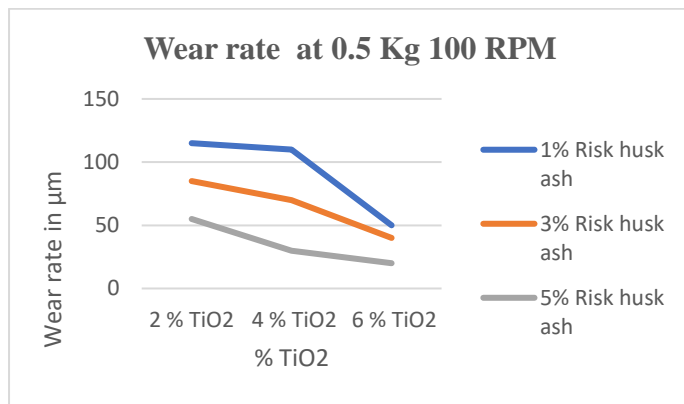


Fig 4.1: Wear rate of LM24, RHA and TiO₂ MMC at 0.5 Kg 100 rpm

Table 4.2: Wear rate of LM24, RHA and TiO₂ MMC at 0.5 Kg 300 rpm

Specimens	2 % TiO ₂	4 % TiO ₂	6 % TiO ₂
1% Risk husk ash	160	130	110
3% Risk husk ash	115	95	70
5% Risk husk ash	80	60	40

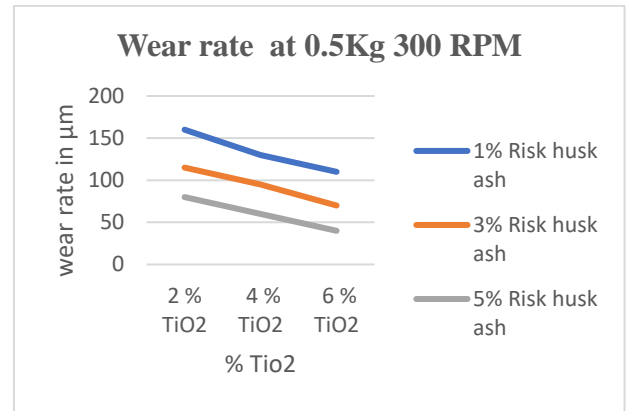


Fig 4.2: Wear rate of LM24, RHA and TiO₂ MMC at 0.5 Kg 300 rpm

Table 4.3: Wear rate of LM24, RHA and TiO₂ MMC at 0.5 Kg 500 rpm

Specimens	2 % TiO ₂	4 % TiO ₂	6 % TiO ₂
1% Risk husk ash	190	175	145
3% Risk husk ash	150	160	105
5% Risk husk ash	120	25	15

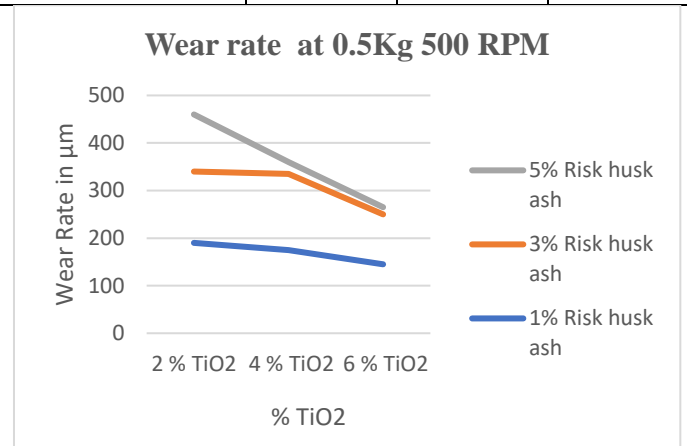


Fig 4.3: Wear rate of LM24, RHA and TiO₂ MMC at 0.5 Kg 500 rpm

Table 4.4: Wear rate of LM24, RHA and TiO₂ MMC at 1 Kg 100 rpm

Specimens	2 % TiO ₂	4 % TiO ₂	6 % TiO ₂
1% Risk husk ash	215	195	160
3% Risk husk ash	165	130	95
5% Risk husk ash	110	85	60

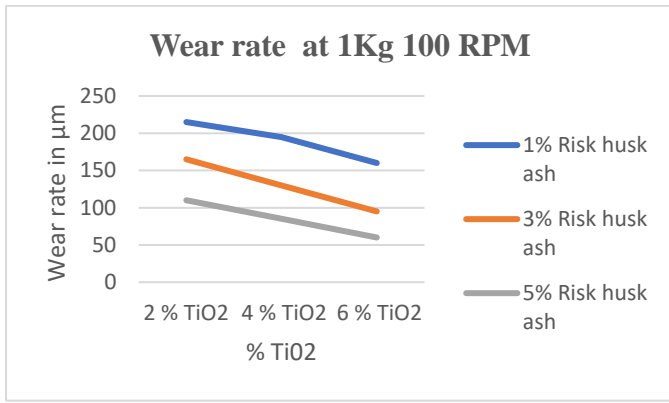


Fig 4.4: Wear rate of LM24, RHA and TiO2 MMC at 1 Kg 100 rpm

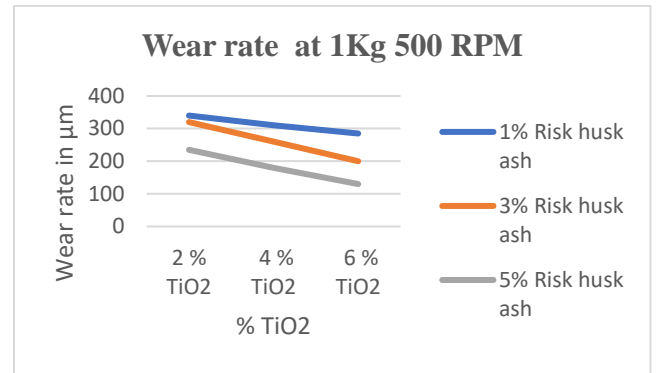


Fig 4.6: Wear rate of LM24, RHA and TiO2 MMC at 1 Kg 500 rpm

Table 4.5: Wear rate of LM24, RHA and TiO2 MMC at 1 Kg 300 rpm

Specimens	2 % TiO ₂	4 % TiO ₂	6 % TiO ₂
1% Risk husk ash	280	265	215
3% Risk husk ash	245	175	130
5% Risk husk ash	150	110	75

Table 4.7: Wear rate of LM24, RHA and TiO2 MMC at 1.5 Kg 100 rpm

Specimens	2 % TiO ₂	4 % TiO ₂	6 % TiO ₂
1% Risk husk ash	280	265	215
3% Risk husk ash	245	175	130
5% Risk husk ash	150	110	75

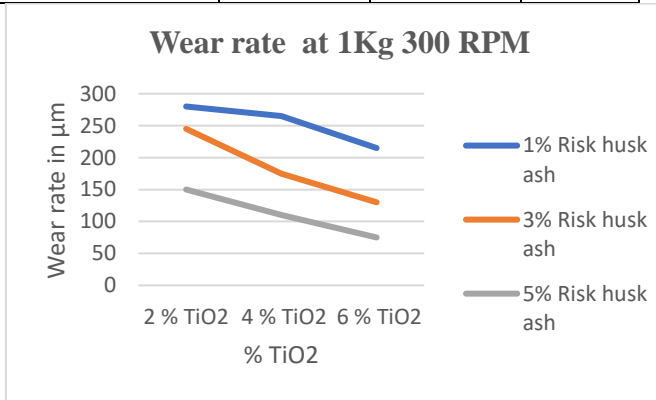


Fig 4.5: Wear rate of LM24, RHA and TiO2 MMC at 1 Kg 300 rpm

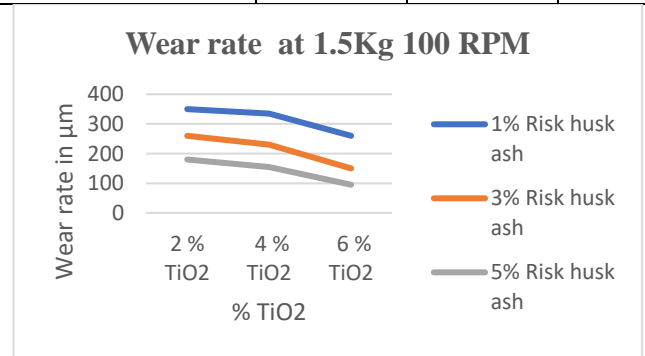


Fig 4.7: Wear rate of LM24, RHA and TiO2 MMC at 1.5 Kg 100 rpm

Table 4.6: Wear rate of LM24, RHA and TiO2 MMC at 1 Kg 500 rpm

Specimens	2 % TiO ₂	4 % TiO ₂	6 % TiO ₂
1% Risk husk ash	340	310	285
3% Risk husk ash	320	260	200
5% Risk husk ash	235	180	130

Table 4.8: Wear rate of LM24, RHA and TiO2 MMC at 1.5 Kg 300 rpm

Specimens	2 % TiO ₂	4 % TiO ₂	6 % TiO ₂
1% Risk husk ash	280	265	215
3% Risk husk ash	245	175	130
5% Risk husk ash	150	110	75

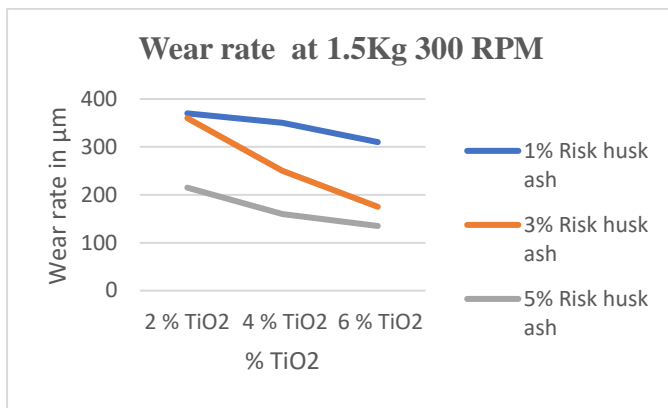


Fig 4.8: Wear rate of LM24, RHA and TiO₂ MMC at 1.5 Kg 300 rpm

Table 4.9: Wear rate of LM24, RHA and TiO₂ MMC at 1.5 Kg 500 rpm

Specimens	2 % TiO ₂	4 % TiO ₂	6 % TiO ₂
1% Risk husk ash	280	265	215
3% Risk husk ash	245	175	130
5% Risk husk ash	150	110	75

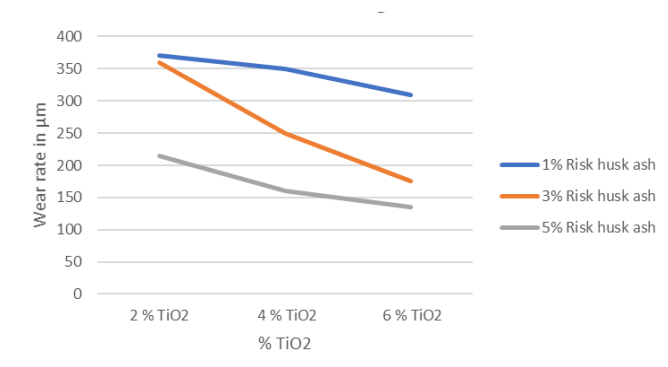


Fig 4.9: Wear rate of LM24, RHA and TiO₂ MMC at 1.5 Kg 500 rpm

The sever wear is serious problem with practical importance because the catastrophic nature of the wear in the post-transition region renders the tribo-component like bearings and cylinder liner unfit for further use. However, sufficient is known about wear mechanisms and their solution to encourage greater application of knowledge.

The significant improvement in the wear resistance of composites in the present case may also be due to the size of the reinforcement used. It is generally

found that the benefit of reinforcement are greater for small sized reinforcement than for larger, one reason being that the response of the composite to deform more was gradually reduce with increasing loads. This load dependence is explained by the observation that each individual abrasive particle transfers fewer loads for low applied loads. Each of the reinforcements is thus able to carry a larger portion of the loads it is exposed to from an individual abrasive particle. Consequently, the effect of the reinforcement on the composites wear resistance is better for low loads.

It is observed from the Graphs that the wear rate of the composites reduced with the increased in reinforcement content. The reduction in wear rate is by as much as 30 to 40 % as the content of TiO₂ (2 to 6%) and RHA (1 to 5%) varied. The improvement in wear resistance of the composites at low loads is attributed due to the presence of reinforcement, which form a thin film at the contact surface between the composite and the counter surface. The reinforcement fracture under higher loads forms a layer consisting of comminuted phase which provide protection against seizure. Thus the hybrid composites exhibit better wear resistance.

V. CONCLUSION

- Coated RHA and TiO₂ reinforced MM24 hybrid composite is manufactured successfully.
- Hybrid composite with 3% of RHA and 6% of TiO₂ showed the maximum Tensile strength of 298.37 N/mm². It is found that there is 37 % increase of tensile strength while addition of RHA and TiO₂ to LM 24.
- The aluminium based particulate reinforced composite, the dislocations are generated during solutionizing due to thermal mismatch between the matrix and the ceramic reinforcement particles.
- It can be inferred that the tensile strength increased with an increase in the weight percentage of rice husk ash and TiO₂. Because,

the RHA particles act as barriers to the dislocations when taking up the load applied.

- From the dry sliding wear studies, it is evident that the incorporation of RHA and TiO₂ particles into the LM24 aluminium matrix alloy increases the wear resistance properties up to 45% as compared with the dry sliding behaviour of pure aluminium LM4 alloy.
- Dry sliding wear results revealed that the parameters like varying weight percentage, sliding speed, and applied load are the direct impact on the wear behaviour of the hybrid composites.
- A reduction of up to 34 % wear rate was observed by incorporation of 5% of RHA and 1% & 6 %of TiO₂ particles as compared with the remaining percentage of reinforcements.
- At the same time, the sliding speed and load are directly proportional to the wear rate of the hybrid composites. As the sliding speed and load increases, the wear rate also increases drastically. Worn out analysis by using SEM revealed that the presence of different wear mechanisms like delamination, scratches, and grooves.

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