

# CONTEMPORARY METALLIC MATERIALS

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Md Abdul Maleque  
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INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA

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Edited by:

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# Table of Content

<b>Chapter 1</b> Upgrading of Laterite Ore by Reduction and Leaching <i>Hadi Purwanto and Pramusanto</i>	1
<b>Chapter 2</b> Upgrading of Iron Sand by Magnetic Concentration and Reduction <i>Muta'alim, Hadi Purwanto, Nuryadi Saleh and Pramusanto</i>	7
<b>Chapter 3</b> Microstructure and Mechanical Properties of Neutron Transmutation Doped of Silicon under Cf-252 Neutron Bombardment <i>Agus Geter Edy Sutjipto, Roslan Yahya</i>	16
<b>Chapter 4</b> Effect of Stabilizer Addition on Crystal Formation of Zirconia Synthesize From Zircon Sand <i>Yuhelda Dahlan Hadi Purwanto, Nuryadi Saleh and Pramusanto</i>	20
<b>Chapter 5</b> Upgrading of Iron-rich Laterite Ore Using Reverse Flotation <i>Hadi Purwanto, Mutaalim, Yuhelda Dahlan, Nuryadi Saleh and Pramusanto</i>	27
<b>Chapter 6</b> Influences of Additives on Copper Film Quality and Gap Filling Capability of Plating Process <i>Shahjahan Mridha and Law Shao Beng</i>	34
<b>Chapter 7</b> Grain Refining in AISI 430 Ferritic Stainless Steel Welds by Addition of Metal Powder <i>Shahjahan Mridha and Muhammed Olawale Hakeem Amuda</i>	41
<b>Chapter 8</b> Grain Refinement Practices in Ferritic Stainless Steel Welds <i>Muhammed Olawale Hakeem Amuda and Shahjahan Mridha</i>	48
<b>Chapter 9</b> Alloy Coating on Steel Surfaces by Melt Synthesis of Elemental Metal Powders <i>Shahjahan Mridha</i>	53

<b>Chapter 10</b>	59
Synthesis And Characterization of Lithium Manganese Copper Oxides for use in Lithium Rechargeable Cells	
<i>I.I. Yaacob, N. Kamarulzaman, and W.J. Basirun<sup>f</sup></i>	
<b>Chapter 11</b>	65
Influence of Grain Size on Magnetic Properties of Electroplated NiFe	
<i>Yusrini Marita and Iskandar Idris Yaacob</i>	
<b>Chapter 12</b>	70
Composite Coating on Titanium Alloy Using High Power Laser	
<i>Shahjahan Mridha</i>	
<b>Chapter 13</b>	75
The Tribological Behaviour of Al-Si Automotive Piston Material	
<i>Arifutzzaman and Md Abdul Maleque</i>	
<b>Chapter 14</b>	81
Conceptual Design of Folding Bicycle Frame with Light Weight Materials	
<i>Md Abdul Maleque and Mohd Nizam</i>	
<b>Chapter 15</b>	86
Reverse Engineering of Automotive Piston	
<i>Md Abdul Maleque and A. Arifutzzaman</i>	
<b>Chapter 16</b>	92
Recent Trend in Application of High Temperature Ferritic Fe-Cr Alloys in Power Plant	
<i>Mohd Hanafi Bin Ani and Raihan Othman</i>	
<b>Chapter 17</b>	98
Measurement of Oxygen Permeability in Bulk Alloys by Internal Oxidation of Dilute Constituent	
<i>Mohd Hanafi Bin Ani and Raihan Othman</i>	
<b>Chapter 18</b>	104
Recent Trend on Application of High Temperature Ferritic Fe-Cr Alloys in Solid Oxide Fuel Cells	
<i>Mohd Hanafi Bin Ani and Raihan Othman</i>	
<b>Chapter 19</b>	110
Principle of Solid Electrolyte Oxygen Sensor	
<i>Mohd Hanafi Bin Ani and Raihan Othman</i>	
<b>Chapter 20</b>	116
Surface Oxygen Potential on the Oxide Scale during High Temperature Oxidation of Fe-Cr Alloys at 1073 K	
<i>Mohd Hanafi Bin Ani and Raihan Othman</i>	

	<i>Mohd Hanafi Bin Ani and Raihan Othman</i>	
<b>Chapter 21</b>		121
Reverse Engineering for Automotive Fuel Tank		
	<i>Md Abdul Maleque and Atiqah Afdzaluddin</i>	
<b>Chapter 22</b>		127
The possibility of utilizing scanning electron microscope for materials characterization		
	<i>Agus Geter Edy Sutjipto</i>	
<b>Chapter 23</b>		135
Piezoelectricity of Zinc Oxide Thin film as Source of Energy for Sensor Applications		
	<i>Agus Geter Edy Sutjipto, Liyana Abdul Gafar and Nor Azyati Syazwina Roselan</i>	
<b>Chapter 24</b>		141
Study on Zinc Oxide Crystal Growth		
	<i>Agus Geter Edy Sutjipto, Liyana Abdul Gafar and Nor Azyati Syazwina Roselan</i>	
<b>Chapter 25</b>		147
Green Nanotechnology using SEM and AFM		
	<i>A.G.E. Sutjipto and R. Muhida</i>	
<b>Chapter 26</b>		155
The effect of Cobalt addition on structural and magnetic properties of electrodeposited Iron-Platinum nanocrystalline thin films		
	<i>Seoh Hian Teh<sup>1</sup>, Iskandar Idris Yaacob</i>	
<b>Chapter 27</b>		163
Mechanochemical Synthesis of CeO <sub>2</sub> Nanopowder using Planetary Ball Milling		
	<i>Iskandar I. Yaacob</i>	
<b>Chapter 28</b>		170
A Study on Double Junction Zinc Based/Polymer Thin Film Solar Cell		
	<i>S. A. Mohamad and A. K. Arof</i>	
<b>Chapter 29</b>		176
A Voltammetric Study of Zinc Telluride Thin Films Prepared for Photovoltaic Applications		
	<i>S. A. Mohamad and A. K. Arof</i>	
<b>Chapter 30</b>		181
Electrodeposition Technique for ZnO Semiconductor Thin Films Fabrication		
	<i>S. A. Mohamad</i>	
<b>Chapter 31</b>		186
Electroless Nickel Based Coatings From Solution Containing Sodium Hypophosphite		
	<i>Suryanto</i>	

<b>Chapter 32</b> Aluminum Spray Coating for Corrosion Resistance of Steel	192
	<i>Suryanto</i>
<b>Chapter 33</b> Electrodeposition of Alloys	198
	<i>Suryanto</i>
<b>Chapter 34</b> Corrosion Behavior of Duplex Stainless Steel in Sea Water	204
	<i>Suryanto</i>
<b>Chapter 35</b> Cathodic Protection of Underground Pipes	210
	<i>Suryanto</i>

## Influence of Grain Size on Magnetic Properties of Electroplated NiFe Alloy

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**Keywords:** Nickel-Iron, Coercivity, Saturation Magnetization.

**Abstract:** Nickel-Iron nanocrystalline alloys with different grain sizes were fabricated by electrodeposition technique. In this chapter, influence of the grain size nanocrystalline NiFe deposits on saturation magnetization  $M_s$  and coercivity,  $H_c$  was investigated. Alternating gradient magnetometer (AGM) with up to 10 kOe applied magnetic field was used to study the magnetic properties of NiFe film. The results showed that saturation magnetization  $M_s$  and coercivity  $H_c$  were affected by grain size variation. Increase in grain size increased the saturation magnetization. The largest grain size of 18.6 nm showed the highest  $M_s$  of 138 emu/g, while the smallest grain size of 7.2 nm showed  $M_s$  of 94 emu/g. Minimum coercivity of 3.847 Oe was observed for sample with 7.2 nm grain sizes. The coercivities decreased for smaller grain sizes.

### Introduction

Polycrystalline solids with grain size of less than 100 nm are called nanocrystalline materials. Nanocrystalline structures offer a new opportunity to improve current magnetic materials. The properties of nanocrystalline materials are very often superior to those of conventional polycrystalline coarse grain materials. Many synthesis techniques for the production of nanostructured materials have been developed. Examples are gas-condensation, ball milling, so-gel technique, sputtering, and electrochemical deposition [1]. Electroplating offers several advantages as a process for magnetic-material deposition. Films can be electroplated with excellent magnetic properties and plating cells are relatively inexpensive.

Recently, much attention has been paid to the study of nanocrystalline nickel – iron alloys due to their interesting mechanical and magnetic properties [2, 3]. Conventional NiFe alloys are important soft magnetic materials, which have been widely used in industry as recording heads. The NiFe alloy has been particularly emphasized because of its high permeability, low coercivity and relatively high saturation magnetization.

Coercivity is a factor that describes how hard or soft a magnet is. The exact definition of coercivity is the applied field needed to reverse a magnetization. A hard magnet has a high coercivity, and when hysteresis analysis is run, a loop is visible. Low coercivity corresponds to a soft magnet. The saturation magnetization occurs when all the magnetic moments are aligned uniformly and magnetization is at its maximum.