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Nanoceramic-Enhanced Cement and Coatings: Pioneering Advanced Materials for Enhancing Performance and Durability

Mahdiyeh Rahmani Del Bakhshayesh*1, Azizeh Rahmani Del Bakhshayesh 2

1. Al-Zahra Technical & Vocational College, Tabriz, Iran
2. Department of Tissue Engineering, Faculty of Advanced Medical Sciences, Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, Tabriz, Iran

INTRODUCTION & AIM

Nanoceramic materials play an important role in the development of high-performance coatings and thin films, and can significantly improve the performance and durability of cementitious composites and surface treatments. These materials, including nanosilica, nanotitania and nanoalumina, improve key properties such as mechanical strength, chemical resistance and environmental resilience. Hence, the incorporation of these nanoceramics into coatings has led to significant improvements, making them an ideal solution for various industrial applications.

Nanoceramic-Enhanced Cement and Coatings

Studies have shown that the addition of nano-silica to cementitious materials increases compressive strength. This is due to its pozzolanic activity, which facilitates the formation of additional cementitious compounds and modifies the microstructure at the nanoscale. This modification process results in a more compact and homogeneous material with improved mechanical properties. Similarly, nanotitania and nanoalumina contribute significantly to reducing permeability and increasing chemical resistance, thus increasing the durability of coatings in harsh environmental conditions. These nanoparticles also fill the pores in the material matrix, modifying the interface between particles, thereby increasing the overall integrity of the structure (Gamal, El-Feky et al. 2021).

The synthesis of nanostructured ceramic coatings involves advanced techniques such as sol-gel and plasma spraying. In the sol-gel process, uniform dispersion of nanoparticles in the coating matrix is provided, resulting in consistent chemical and mechanical properties. On the other hand, in plasma spraying, high-energy plasma jets are used to combine the coating material with the concrete substrate, increasing adhesion and durability.

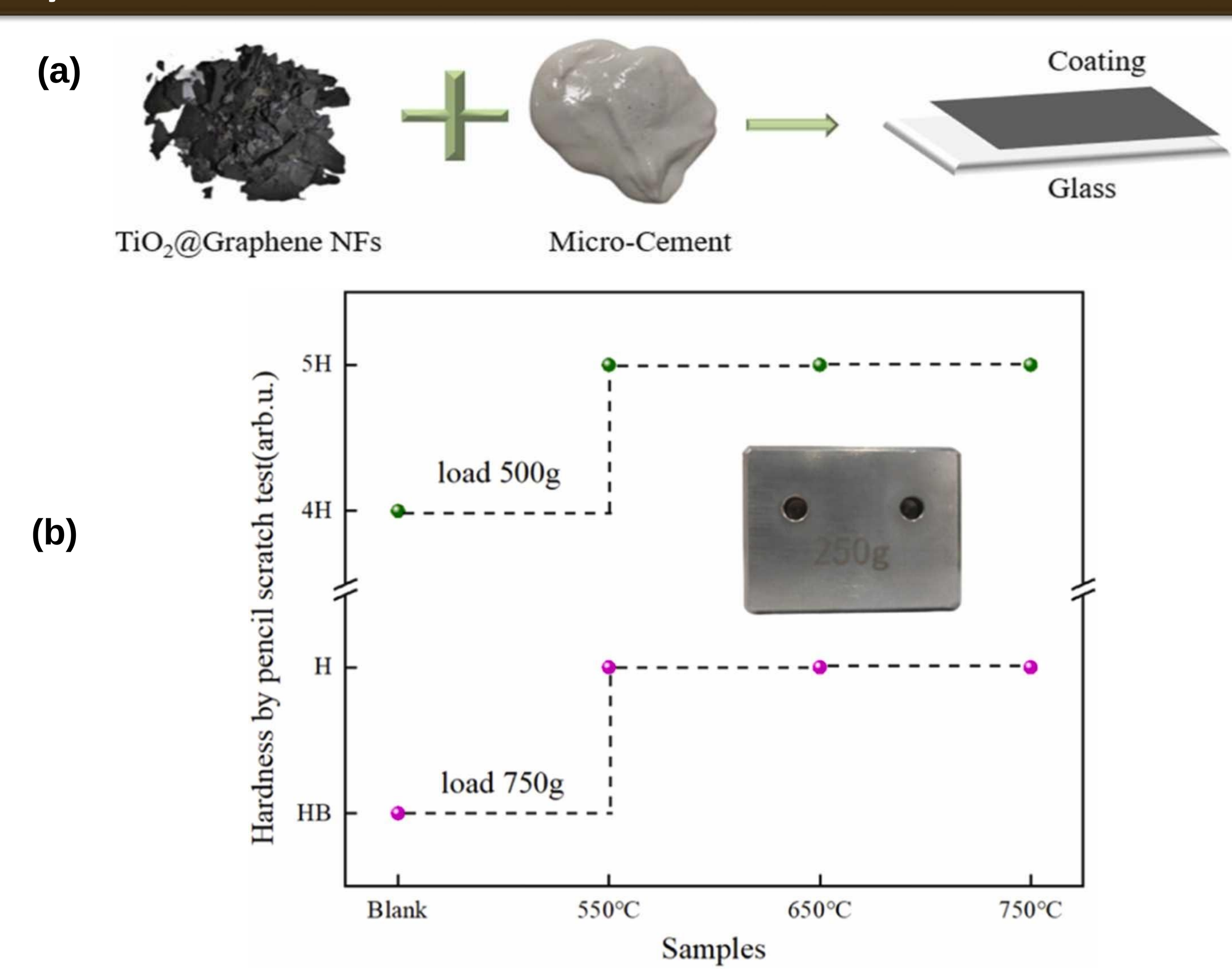
In these processes, techniques such as scanning electron microscopy (SEM) and X-ray diffraction (XRD) are used to characterize and evaluate the quality of the coatings. SEM examines the surface morphology and distribution of nanoparticles, ensuring uniformity and absence of defects, while XRD is used to examine the crystal structure to confirm proper nanoparticle incorporation (Roy, et al. 2024). Generally, these methods are used to ultimately confirm the ability of coatings to provide desired improvements in strength, permeability, and chemical resistance.

Mechanisms of Durability Enhancement

In recent studies, microstructural investigations have provided visual confirmation of the improvements in reinforced cements and coatings, revealing denser and more uniform networks within the material. These improved structures not only enhance mechanical properties but also contribute to the longevity and environmental performance of the coatings, ensuring their resistance to the effects of weathering, chemical exposure, and physical abrasion.

Nano-enhanced ceramic coatings that use nano-silica, nano-titania, and nano-alumina provide a powerful method for improving the durability of concrete. They enhance compressive strength, minimize permeability, and boost chemical resistance, effectively tackling significant durability issues. By effectively filling voids, refining surfaces, and ensuring strong adhesion, these coatings strengthen the structural integrity of concrete, as shown in various applications like bridges, industrial flooring, and marine structures. With ongoing research into cost-effective production, nano-enhanced ceramic coatings hold the promise of transforming modern construction, delivering sustainable and resilient infrastructure.

In a recent study, Wang et al. (2025) developed a cement-based coating incorporating graphene-modified TiO2 nanofibers that efficiently degrades pollutants when exposed to light. The optimal performance was observed with the pure anatase form heated to 550°C. Graphene improved both light absorption and the durability of the coating. This innovative material shows promise as a sustainable and long-lasting option for building surfaces (Wang, Pei et al. 2025).



(a) Preparation of cement-based inorganic cementitious coating,(b) Pencil hardness test on coatings. (Wang, Pei et al. 2025).

CONCLUSION

The incorporation of nanoceramic materials into coatings signifies a major advancement in surface engineering, presenting new possibilities for developing sustainable and high-performance materials within the construction sector. Upcoming research will aim at optimizing nanoparticle levels, examining long-term durability and effectiveness in real-world situations, and analyzing the environmental and economic implications of these advanced materials. With ongoing innovation, nanoceramics could transform the domain of coatings and surface treatments.

FUTURE WORK

The promise of nano-enhanced ceramic coatings to transform the longevity of concrete is considerable, but obstacles persist in expanding their use. Future studies should concentrate on developing cost-effective synthesis methods and large-scale production to improve accessibility. Refining application techniques, like spray or brush coating, could also be beneficial. As these innovations advance, nano-enhanced coatings are set to promote their integration into various construction projects, becoming a standard solution for sustainable and resilient infrastructure.

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