

# Investigating the synthesis and growth of titanium dioxide nanoparticles on a cobalt catalyst

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## ARTICLE INFO

### Article history:

Received 05 July, 2019

Accepted 11 Aug 2019

Published 21 Sept. 2019

### Keywords:

Nanostructures,

TiO<sub>2</sub> Electron Microscopy,

Nanoparticles

## ABSTRACT

A new deposition process working in the pressure of 1 torr has been created for the growth of titanium dioxide layers composed of nanoparticles. The growth of TiO<sub>2</sub> has been investigated by about D1=124nm, D2=108.85nm, and D3=97.94nm. And Raman peaks are in 132.36, 182.85, 27.82, 392.59, 458.41, 503.74, 512.45, 600.92, 623.24, 631.28, and 809.08 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

## 1. Introduction

It is increasingly interested in Nanosized materials due to their unique structure and properties. Recently, the focus of most works conducted in this field is on important metal oxides such as ZnO, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, TiO<sub>2</sub>, WO<sub>3</sub>, and SiO<sub>2</sub>, which are known for their catalytic behaviors, size effects, non-linear optical properties, unusual luminance, and so forth [1-5].

In the last 20 years, the production of titanium dioxide coatings has attracted a lot of attention due to the high advantages and chemical-physical characteristics [6]. Nano Titanium Dioxide (TiO<sub>2</sub>) has been widely studied in recent years due to its high applications such as photovoltaic batteries [7], semiconductor photocatalysts [8], and gas and humidity sensors [9]. There are several methods for the synthesis of one-dimensional nanostructures such as chemical vapor deposition (CVD), plasma-enhanced chemical vapor deposition (PECVD), and sol-gel [10-17]. The main drawback of this method is that the process almost takes a long time to be performed (for example, several hours) and often done under very low pressure. Such problems cause the method to be expensive [6]. Over the past few years, many approaches have successfully produced Nano titanium dioxide from nanoparticles [18], thin films [19], nanotubes [20-21], and nanowires [22]. In this study, it is attempted to provide an efficient method for shaping on the scale of one-dimensional nanoparticles using hot filament chemical vapor deposition (HFCVD). Actually, the idea of growing TiO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles using HFCVD apparatus has been never done so far.

## 2. The experiment

In this process, the experiment is performed on a silicon substrate whose contaminants have been removed using ultrasonic treatment and then the cobalt catalyst has been overlaid on the substrate using PECVD device. It should be noted that before growth stage, the operations of preparing the substrate are conducted using HFCVD apparatus under an atmosphere of hydrogen and ammonia at a pressure of 5 torr and the temperature of 550°C. Then, using the precursor of titanium tetra isopropoxide (TTIP), and Argon and ammonia gas, under a hot filament at the pressure of 1 torr and the temperature of 550°C, it is transferred into the chamber and stays there (15 min) for the growth of nanoparticles. After the growth process, the samples are ejected from the chamber to be identified and analyzed by electron microscope, Raman spectroscopy, and EDX. Figure 1 shows an HFCVD apparatus.



Figure 1: an HFCVD apparatus

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.24200/jrset.vol7iss04pp1-3>

**Figure 3:** the Raman spectroscopy diagram of  $\text{TiO}_2$  nanoparticles for 15 min at the temperature of  $550^\circ\text{C}$

458.41, 503.74, 512.45, 600.92, 623.24, 631.28, and 809.08  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . The peaks respectively in 132.36, 182.85, 392.59, 503.74, 512.45, 623.24, 631.28, and 809.08  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  show the anatase peaks and the peaks in 600.92 and 458.41  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  show the rutile peaks.

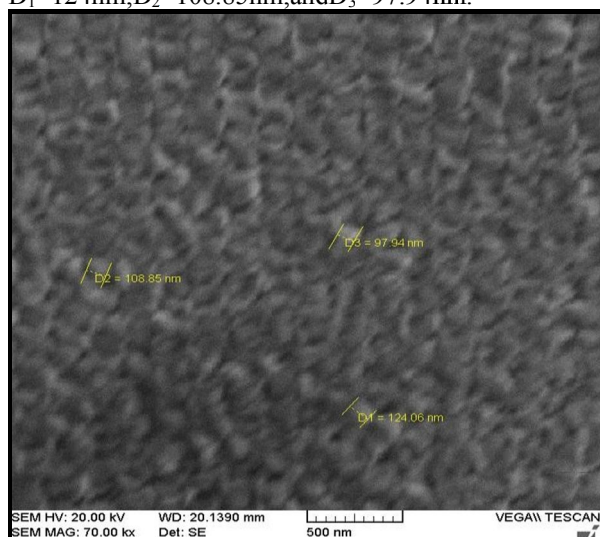
The chemical composition of resulted nanoparticles is analyzed using EDX. Here, two EDX profiles have been used: 1) the spot profile and 2) the linear

Bakhshkandi *et al.*

Iranian Journal of Scientific Studies

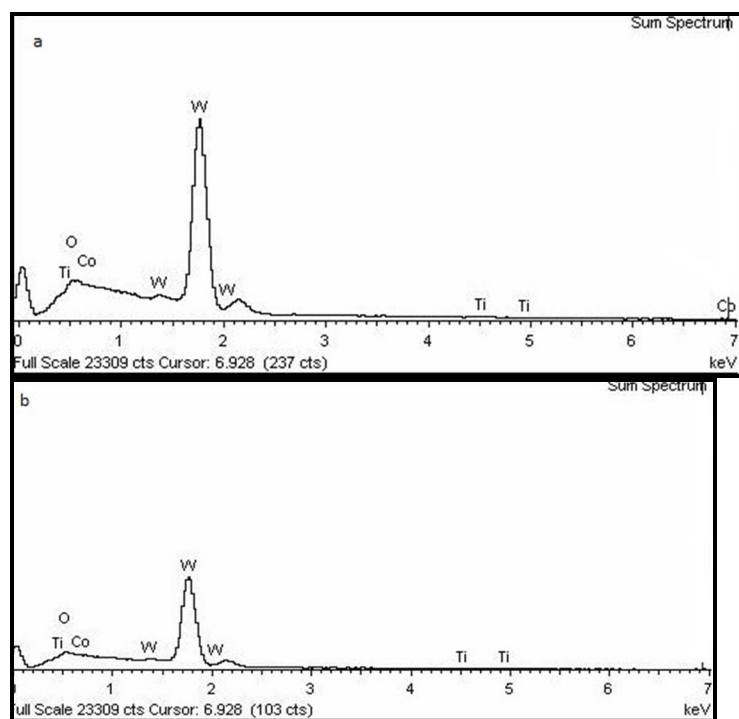
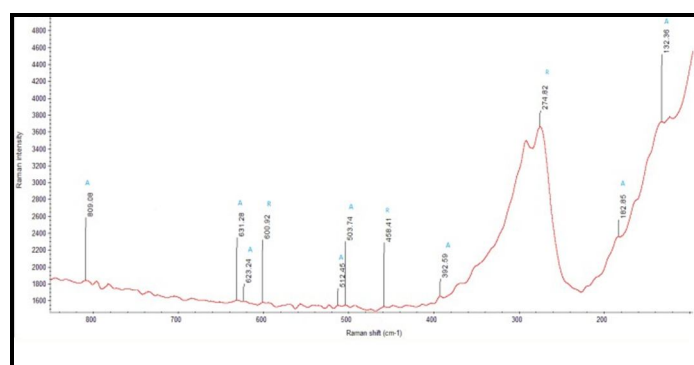
### 3. Results

Figure 2 shows an SEM image of  $\text{TiO}_2$  nanoparticles growth on a silicon substrate which has been overlaid with cobalt catalyst for 15 min at the temperature of  $550^\circ\text{C}$ . The size varieties of nanoparticles are respectively as  $D_1=124\text{nm}$ ,  $D_2=108.85\text{nm}$ , and  $D_3=97.94\text{nm}$ .



**Figure 2:** the SEM image of  $\text{TiO}_2$  nanoparticles for 15 min at the temperature of  $550^\circ\text{C}$

Figure 3 shows Raman spectroscopy of  $\text{TiO}_2$  nanoparticles for 15 min at the temperature of  $550^\circ\text{C}$ , which it has determined 11 Raman peaks in 132.36, 182.85, 27.82, 392.59,



profile. The direction of linear profiles is parallel and perpendicular to the axis of the nanoparticles.

Figure 4a and 4b respectively show the results obtained from EDX linear and spot profiles. Signals of cobalt, oxygen, titanium, and tungsten have been detected in the spot and linear profiles. Figure 4a shows the EDX diagram of  $\text{TiO}_2$  nanoparticles, in which a signal of cobalt, oxygen, titanium, and  $\text{TiO}_2$  nanoparticles for 15 min at the temperature of

550

tungsten has been observed. In figure 4a, the weight percent of titanium, oxygen, and cobalt are respectively 0.2%, 17.37%, and 0.5%. Figure 4b shows a signal of oxygen, cobalt, titanium, and tungsten, whose weight percent are respectively 17.11%, 0.47%, 0.05%, and 82.37%.

**Figure 4:** the EDX diagram of the temperature of  $\text{TiO}_2$  550nanoparticles for 15 min at  $600^\circ\text{C}$

#### 4. Conclusions

The hot-filament deposition process was described in this article, which is a flexible method for combining titanium dioxide coatings with nanostructures. The growth of  $\text{TiO}_2$

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nanoparticles on the surface of Co at the temperature of  $550^\circ\text{C}$  (for 15 min) was explained. The smallest and the largest particle size were respectively reported equal to 97.94 and 124nm. The results of Raman spectroscopy showed the peaks in 132.36, 182.85, 27.82, 392.59, 458.41, 503.74, 512.45, 600.92, 623.24, 631.28, and  $809.08\text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

#### 5. Acknowledgement

With the utmost thanks and appreciation for supports and cooperation of Mr. Amir Saqleini and all officials of the