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**GEDİZ UNIVERSITY, ENGINEERING FACULTY, DEPARTMENT OF
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, TURKEY.**

**3st INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION
ON MECHANICAL & AEROSPACE ENGINEERING**

**INVESTIGATION OF THE EFFECT OF TiO_2 ON THE
THERMAL, MECHANICAL AND EROSION PROPERTIES OF
AVIATION THERMOPLASTIC COMPOSITES**

Fuat OKUMUŞ

fokumus1953@hotmail.com

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CONTENTS

I. MAIN GOAL OF THE STUDY

II. GENERAL

III. MATERIAL AND METHOD

IV. CONCLUSIONS.

V. REFERENCES

I. MAIN GOAL OF THE STUDY

In this study, we carried out the flexural, thermal, and erosive wear performance of PEI /TiO₂ composites. we tested PEI/TiO₂ composites containing varying amounts—5,10,15,20,25, and 30 % by weight (wt%)—of a TiO₂ particle filler. We measured the erosive-wear resistance of these PEI /TiO₂ composites, and their flexural properties both before and after undergoing erosion. We also determined the thermal stability of the composites using thermogravimetric analysis methods.

II. GENERAL

Polyetherimide (PEI) is a semicrystalline aromatic polymer which possesses excellent mechanical properties, good stability at elevated temperature, outstanding chemical resistance, and inherent flame retardancy. In addition to these advantages, the relatively low material cost and good process ability make PEI a highly competitive engineering material among current high-performance thermoplastics.

Generally, thermoplastic composites, particularly in automotive applications, high performance aircraft and aerospace structures have become increasingly popular on account of their many advantages, including good fracture toughness, increased impact resistance, higher solvent resistance, high specific stiffness and specific strength.

Moreover, thermoplastic composites possess the unique characteristic that they may be remelted and repaired; they can be remelted for repairing local cracks and delaminations. As a result of their potential for high production rates and low material costs, thermoplastic composites are of interest in a wide range of sectors including the automotive, construction and aerospace industries

* III.MATERIAL AND METHODE

* In this study,we prepared the Polyetherimide(PEI) thermoplastic composite samples with different TiO₂ particle concentrations using twin-screw extruder and injection molding machines.The Polyetherimide used as the matrix resin material for the composite and as the filler material used technical 99% grade titanium two oxide(commercial code 13551) .

The size of the TiO₂ particles was approximately 220nm.

The proccessing parameters employed for the micro-compounder and for injection molding are given in the table 1.

Table 1. The processing parameters for the Polyetherimide thermoplastic composites

	Barrel temperature (°C)	Compounding round (rpm)	Compounding time (min.)	Mold temperature (°C)	Injection pressure (bar)	Holding pressure (bar)
Micro-Compounder	330	120	3	-	-	-
Injection molding	-	-	-	150	12	12

- *The pure Polyetherimide (PEI) granules were dried in an electric oven at 80 C⁰ for 24 h. before preparing the thermoplastic composites.
- *We then weighed the Polyetherimide granules and TiO₂ particles in the requisite proportions and compounded them in the micro-compounder to obtain the different samples.
- *To test the erosive wear properties, the thermoplastic composite samples were eroded under 30⁰ and 90⁰ impingement angles in an erosion test rig using 175–200 μm-sized silica particles as the erodent. Erodent particles were propelled by a statics pressure of 4 bar along a 50 mm nozzle 4 mm in diameter. The average speed of the silica erodent particles under the 4 bar pressure was measured to be 50m/s, and the mass flow of erodent particles was measured as 7.20g/s with respect to air pressure.

- * We carried out flexural tests on both the eroded and uneroded samples having dimensions of 75x12x5 mm using three-point bending setups with span value of 60 mm between the two supports.
- * Quasi-static loading with crosshead velocity of 3mm/min was applied using a ShimadzuAG-X test machine with a load cell of 13kN. We obtained measurements of both bending modulus (the material's stiffness, or resistance to bending) and fracture strength (the amount of bending stress the material can withstand before breaking).

*

*For the uneroded PEI composites, we found that flexural modulus showed a steady increase with increasing TiO_2 particle concentration as shown in Figure 1.

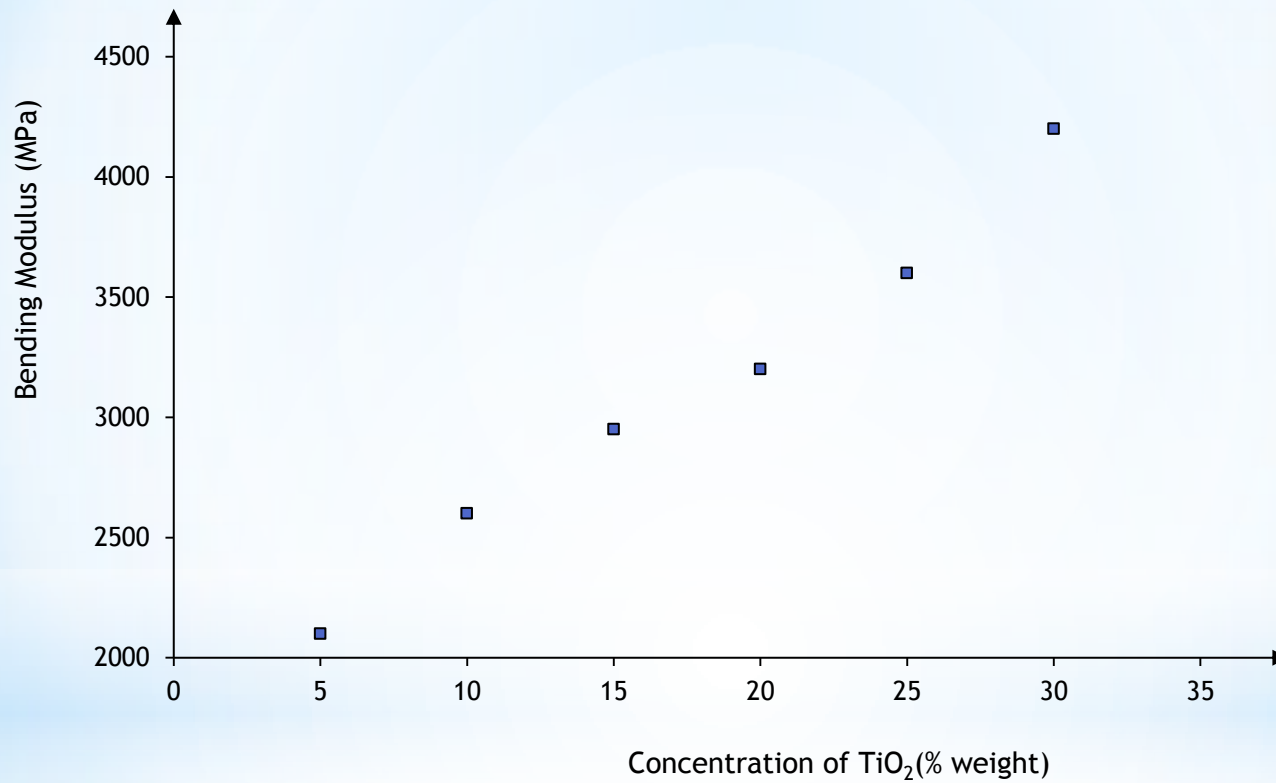


Figure 1. Change of Bending Modulus for uneroded composite

On the other hand, the flexural strength of the uneroded composites showed a slight enhancement only up to the 15 wt% particle concentration as shown in figure 2.

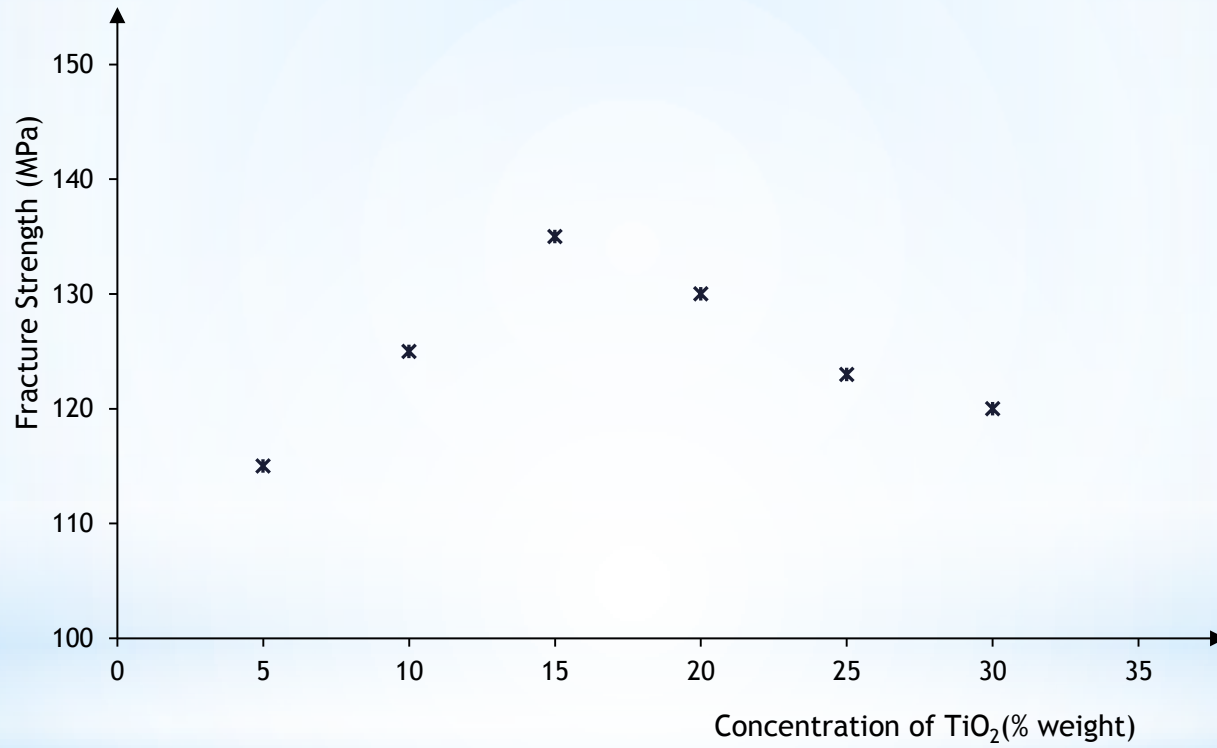


Figure 2. Change of Fracture Strength for uneroded PEI composite

We measured the impact velocity of erodent particles by the double disc method. Our results show that the erosion rates of TiO_2 -reinforced PEI composite samples at both 30° and 90° impingement angles. Erosion rates increase with increasing TiO_2 concentration. The results have been dotted in figure 3.

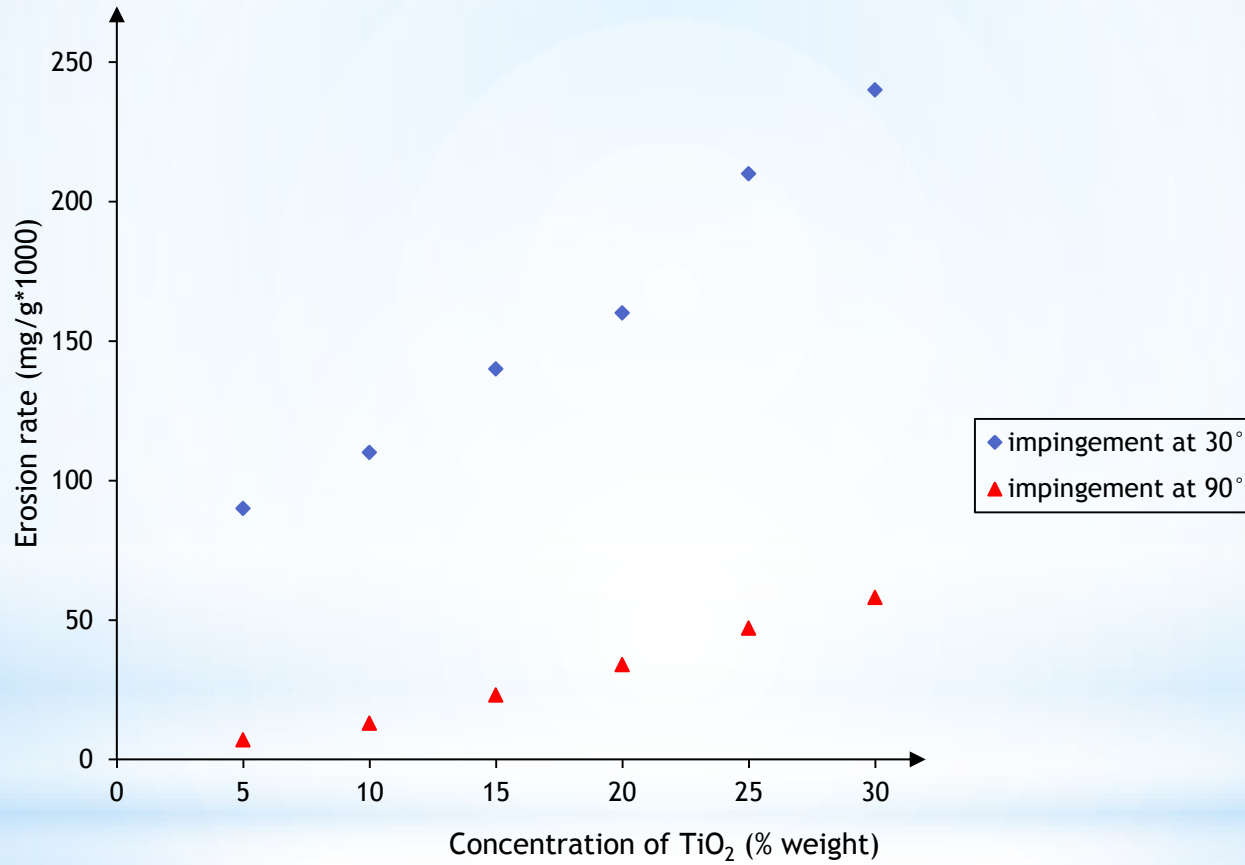


Figure 3. Erosion rates of composite material

- * We can therefore say that TiO_2 reinforcement causes a decrease in the erosion resistance of the composite.
- *
* The flexural properties of the PEI composites after undergoing erosion has been investigated .

***We can see that the flexural modulus of PEI composites eroded by solid particles at a 90⁰ impingement angle was higher than that of the composites eroded at a 30⁰ impingement angle, but also higher than that of the uneroded ones.**

***This results have been shown in the figure 4. This confirms the observations reported in the literatures that solid particle erodents striking the surface at a 90⁰ impingement angle tend to harden the surface.**

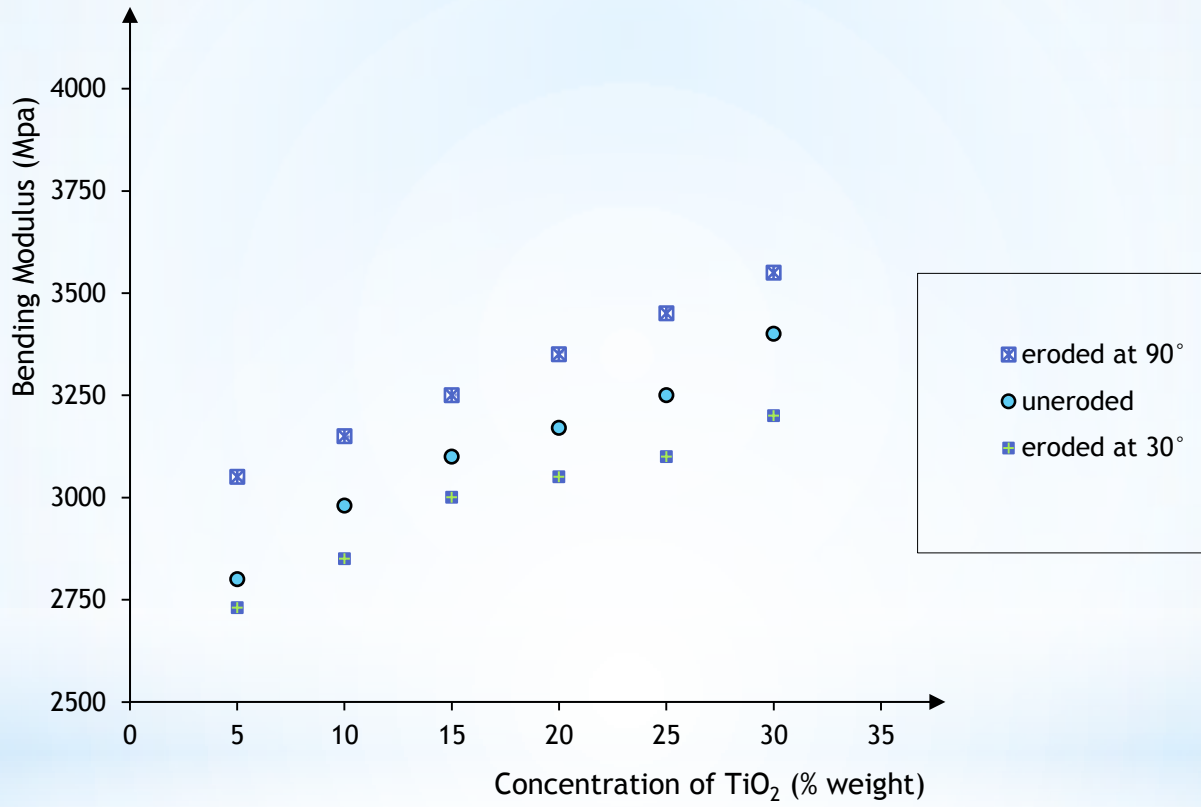


Figure 4. Change of bending modulus of composite material

- * Also, as can be seen in Figure 5., the flexural strength values for the eroded PEI composites follow a trend (peaking at 20wt%) similar to that of their uneroded counterparts.
- * At higher loadings, in the range from 15 to 30 wt% TiO_2 , the composite material showed to decrease of the fracture strength .

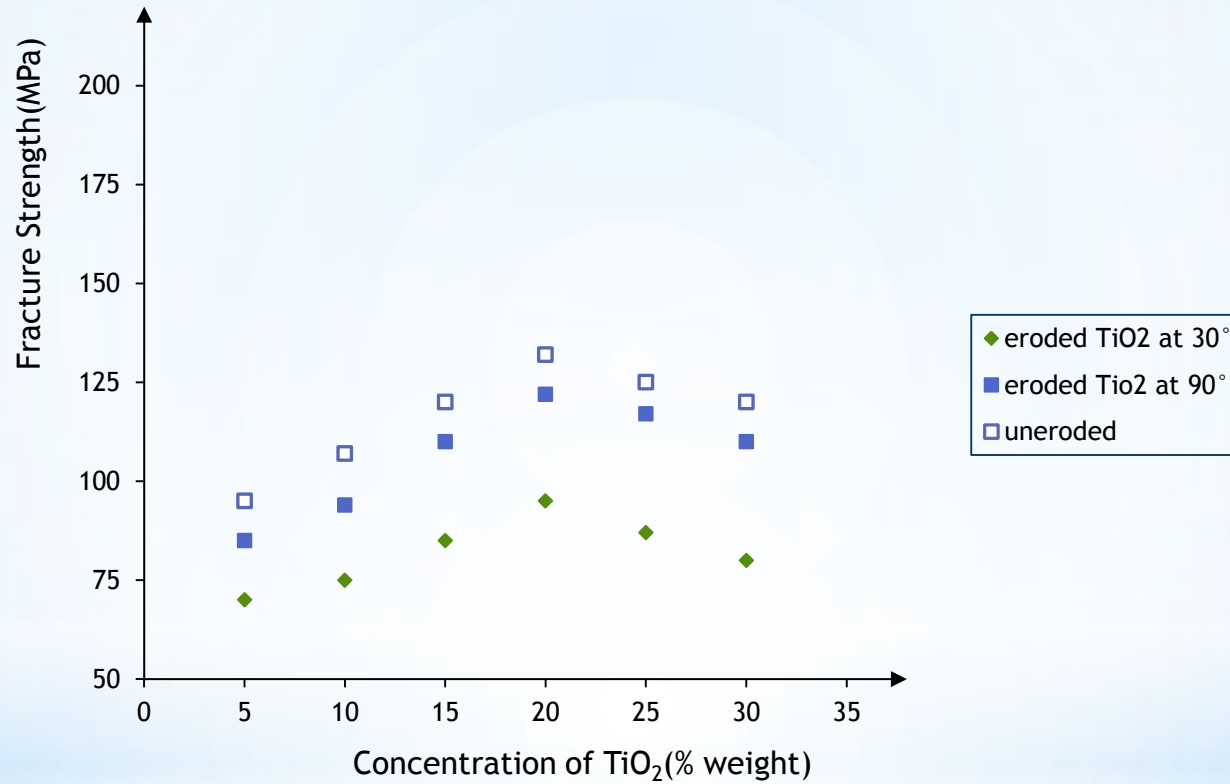


Figure 5. Change of fracture strength of the composite material

Finally, we determined the thermal stability of the thermoplastic composite samples using Q50 TGA equipment supplied by TA Instruments.

The samples (12mg) were heated from room temperature to 1000⁰ C at a rate of 25⁰C /min in nitrogen atmosphere. The temperature of 15 wt⁰% loss was taken as the onset degradation temperature (T_{15}).

Figure 6. shows the TGA results for neat Polyetherimide and its TiO₂-reinforced Thermoplastic composites. Up to 30 wt% there is no remarkable change in the thermal stability of the PEI composites. However, we would expect increasing the TiO₂ loading beyond this point to produce a decrease in thermal stability. The 30 wt% loading reduced the maximum decomposition temperature by 22⁰C.

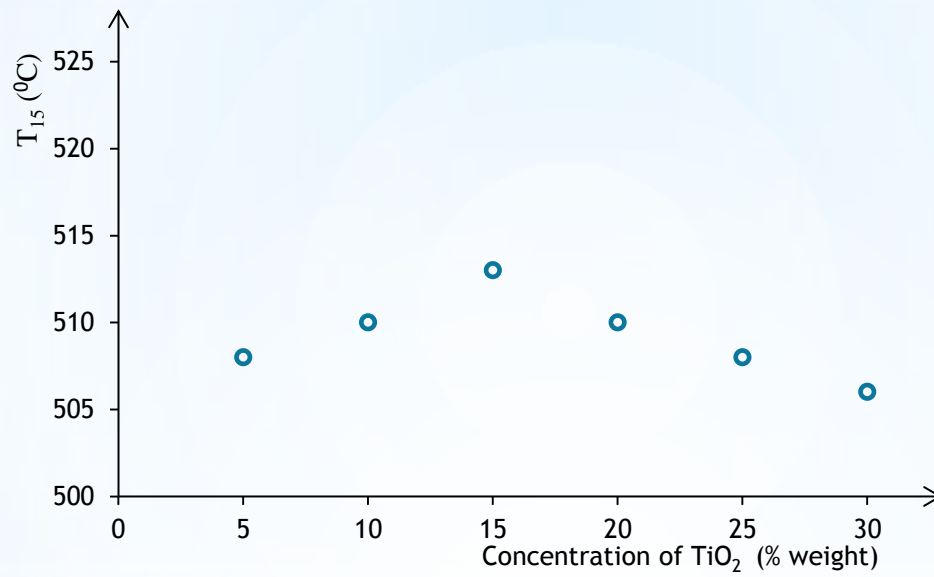


Figure 6. Thermal Stability of the composite material

*IV. CONCLUSIONS.

- *In this study, it has been investigated, how the flexural, thermal, and solid-particle erosive wear properties of TiO₂-reinforced PEI composites vary depending on the amount of TiO₂ filler. It has been obtained that higher filler concentrations improved the flexural modulus—and also, for amounts up to 15 wt%, the flexural strength—of the thermoplastic composites, but also decreased their erosion resistance.
- *It has been also found that the flexural properties of the thermoplastic composite samples eroded at a 90° impingement angle remained nearly equal to those of the uneroded samples, whereas they were significantly reduced at a 30° impingement angle.
- *Thermal stability was only slightly affected by filler concentration.

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THANKS