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**HYDROMETALLURGICAL RECOVERY of MECHANOCHEMICALLY
SYNTHESIZED Ti-Mg ALLOY POWDER FROM MILLED TiO₂-Mg
POWDER MIXTURE**

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A dissertation submitted to the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment,
University of the Witwatersrand, in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of
Master of Science in Engineering.

Johannesburg, 2010

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this thesis submitted for the degree MSc Engineering (Metallurgy and Materials), at the Witwatersrand University, is my own original work and has not previously been submitted to any other institution of higher education. I further declare that all sources cited or quoted are indicated and acknowledged by means of a comprehensive list of references.

Tafadzwa Mushove

17th day of March 2010

ABSTRACT

Ti-Mg alloy has desirable mechanical and other properties but is difficult to form by conventional ingot metallurgy. This work reports the results of a hydrometallurgical investigation on the recovery of Ti-Mg alloy powder synthesized from mechanochemical processing (MCP) of TiO_2 with Mg (15 wt.% beyond stoichiometric). The MCP synthesized alloy powder is intrinsically mixed with MgO and other oxides of Ti. The objective was thus to find a leachant that can leach out the by-products of the MCP process. Different inorganic and organic acid media, and their combinations, were used to try and recover a pure isolated Ti-Mg powder.

For comparison purposes, the dissolution of individual particulate polycrystalline MgO and TiO_2 , and Ti-20Mg (obtained from milling blended elemental powders) was also investigated. The study indicated that separation with inorganic acids (HCl, H_2SO_4 , and aqua regia) was not possible since as high as 80% of the milled Ti-Mg alloy powder was dissolving, yet the target TiO_2 was still undissolved under the same conditions. Recovery of Ti-Mg powder was not achieved with organic acids as well because MgO and TiO_2 showed marked resistance to dissolution and hence would contaminate the alloy powder. There was drastic co-dissolution of MCP TiO_2 -Mg in combined HCl/organic acids while the TiO_2 resisted dissolution.

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. **Mushove, T.**, Chikwanda, H.K., Machio C., Ndlovu S., 2009. Ti-Mg Alloy Powder Synthesis via Mechanochemical Reduction of TiO_2 by Elemental Magnesium, Materials Science Forum (Volumes 618 - 619), pp517 – 520. Published and presented at the 4th Light Metals Technology Conference 2009, Gold Coast, Australia, 29 June – 1 July, 2009.

DEDICATION

To Jefferson Kushinga

With all my love

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

XRD	:	X-ray diffraction
M	:	Molarity
MCP	:	Mechanochemical processing
SEM	:	Scanning electron microscope
wt. %	:	Weight percent
at. %	:	Atom percent
CP	:	Commercially pure
L/S ratio	:	Liquid/Solid ratio

MINERAL NAMES

Periclase	:	MgO
Rutile	:	TiO ₂
Ilmenite	:	FeTiO ₃
Magnesium	:	Mg
Sphene	:	CaTiSiO ₅

CHAPTER 1

1.1 Background and Motivation

Titanium metal is the fourth most abundant structural metal in the earth's crust, making up about 0.57 wt. %, and it is the ninth most abundant element (Sibum, 2003). Titanium and its alloys have been used in many applications particularly in the aerospace industry, because of their high strength (yield strengths range from 172 MPa for commercially pure [CP] titanium to above 1380 MPa for heat treated beta alloys), low density (between 4.43 g/cm^3 and 4.85 g/cm^3), high strength-to-density ratio, and good corrosion resistance (Takeda, 2006; Leyens et al, 2003). Titanium primarily occurs as the minerals rutile (TiO_2), ilmenite (FeTiO_3) and sphene (CaTiSiO_5). Even though it is the ninth most abundant element in the earth's crust (Sibum, 2003), the global production tonnage of metallic titanium was only 1.0×10^5 tonnes in 2005, which was substantially lower than that of the common metals such as iron (Fe: 1.1×10^9 tonnes in 2005) (Matsuoka, 2003).

Widespread titanium usage is prevented by its high production cost. The elevated cost is due to the current Kroll Process for refining titanium ore to titanium metal; the process is a labour intensive, multi-step, high temperature batch process with low productivity. Consequently, a new titanium production process with low cost and high productivity is required (Takeda et al, 2006). Studies are being conducted on direct reduction of rutile by more reactive metal reductants during mechanochemical processing (MCP). Direct reduction has the advantage that, apart from resulting in the formation of Ti alloys, it avoids the many expensive steps encountered in the Kroll process (Poulsen et al, 1983). Cheaper production of Ti metal aside, there is a need for lighter titanium alloys, especially to improve aircraft efficiency. It is recognized that a

density reduction is more effective in reducing aircraft weight than an increase in alloy strength (Wilkes et al, 1996). Density reduction can be attained by alloying Ti with lighter elements, e.g. Mg. Under equilibrium conditions, the solid solubility of magnesium in titanium is about 0.7 at.% at 890°C and much less (about 0.2 at.%) at 500°C (Wilson et al, 2001), which is significantly low.

1.2 MCP ‘far from equilibrium’ process for Ti-Mg alloy synthesis

The production of Ti–Mg alloys has its difficulties. For instance, conventional casting methods cannot achieve complete mixing of Ti and Mg because the boiling point of Mg (1090°C) lies well below the melting point of Ti (1668°C). Also, conventional casting, along with other processes like rapid solidification, and vapour quenching (Zhou et al, 1995) would require pure Ti made by the expensive Kroll process, which is a distinct disadvantage due to the cost of the Kroll Ti.

The challenges of producing Ti-Mg alloys by conventional methods have resulted in research into novel, far from equilibrium, processes of manufacturing Ti-Mg alloys. One such process is mechanochemical processing (MCP). The technology is a novel, solid-state process for the manufacture of metal powders, including metal alloy powders by ambient temperature reduction of a reducible metal compound by a reactive metal or metal hydride. Mg metal as a reductant is generating a lot of interest. Apart from producing Ti-Mg alloys when Mg is used in more than stoichiometric quantities (Poulsen et al, 1983), the element Mg has a density (1.74 g cm^{-3}) which is lower than that of titanium (density 4.5 g cm^{-3}). Accordingly, Ti-Mg alloys will exhibit appreciable density reductions compared to elemental Ti. Indeed, a 15% reduction in density has been reported for a Ti -11wt% Mg (Sun et al, 2002). Such a

density reduction could make Ti–Mg alloys attractive as replacements for present titanium alloys in applications like the aerospace industry where weight savings are important.

The MCP process is distinguished from competing technologies by the solid-state nature of the process that enables the formation of equiaxed nanoparticles, with a narrow size distribution and low levels of agglomeration (Mckormick et al, 1998). The large departure from equilibrium possible in MCP leads to the attributes including extension of solubility levels of Mg in Ti. It also enables initiation of chemical reactions at much lower temperatures than those at which they would occur normally, leading to energy savings. In addition, it is a process that can be easily scaled up to commercial production (Koch, 1993).

The present research is focussed on separating Ti-Mg alloy powder synthesized from direct reduction of TiO_2 with Mg, using hydrometallurgical means. The Ti-Mg alloy powder was formed through reduction of TiO_2 by 15wt.% excess magnesium via mechanochemical processing (MCP). The other by-products of the MCP process are MgO, unreacted Mg, unreacted TiO_2 and incompletely reduced titanium oxides of the type Ti_xO_y which require separation from the Ti-Mg alloy powder. The Ti-Mg alloy was synthesized by the CSIR and the process is thus protected by CSIR copyright; the role of this research was to focus on cleaning of the alloy rather than the alloy synthesis. It is hoped that once a cost effective beneficiation process is designed then titanium applications will become widespread.

1.3 Possible applications of Ti-Mg alloys

Possible Ti-Mg applications, by virtue of their lower densities and specific strengths (Sun et al, 2002), are given below:

1.3.1 Biomedical applications

The reason for the extended use of titanium and its alloys as implant biomaterials stems from their lower elastic modulus, their superior biocompatibility and improved corrosion resistance compared to the more conventional stainless steel and cobalt-based alloys (Nicula et al, 2007). Nanostructured titanium-based biomaterials with tailored porosity are important for cell-adhesion, viability, differentiation and growth. Newer technologies like foaming or low-density core processing were recently used for the surface modification of titanium alloy implant bodies to stimulate bone in-growth and improve osseointegration and cell-adhesion, which in turn play a key role in the acceptance of the implants (Nicula et al, 2007). Examples of common biomedical devices include substitute heart valves and artificial hearts, artificial hip and knee joints, dental implants, internal as well as external fracture fixators, and skin repair templates. It is envisaged that Ti-Mg alloys will reduce the masses of these devices.

1.3.2 Aerospace applications

The use of Ti in the aerospace industry is among other reasons due to its lower density. As already noted in the Section 1.1, improved aircraft efficiency requires still lighter alloys and it is hoped that the introduction of Mg in Ti will produce novel alloys with a lower density and therefore that are suitable for making components in the aircraft industry (Wilson, 2001).

1.4 Problem Statement

Ti-Mg alloy powder has been produced by a mechanochemical process (MCP) through direct reduction of TiO_2 Mg. The MCP technique, however, also produces MgO, unreacted TiO_2 , Mg and type TiO_{1-x} oxides. It is required that the Ti-Mg alloy powder be isolated from the by-products of the MCP process by a hydrometallurgical process; in this context the Ti-Mg alloy is preserved while the by-products are leached out.

Various possible TiO_2/TiO leaching media have been investigated including sulphuric acid (Chun et al, 2007; Sole, 1999), hydrochloric acid (Chun et al, 2007; Imahashi et al, 1976) and organic acids such as ascorbic acid/oxalic acid in equi-molar concentrations (Mukherjee, 2005). The use of the test leaching media will be counter-balanced by the need not to dissolve the Ti-Mg alloy formed during the MCP process.

1.5 Objectives of the Study

The specific aims and objectives of this research are:-

- To derive a conceptual model for separating the Ti-Mg alloy from the waste oxides and unreacted metal powders.
- To optimize the Ti-Mg alloy powder separation process with respect to final recovery of a clean and pure Ti-Mg alloy.

1.6 Hypothesis

The premise of the work is that the Ti-Mg alloy powder will not be easily dissolved in the reagents that will be used to separate it from the by-products of the MCP technique.

1.7 Research Questions

The questions to be answered by this project are:

- Which one among the reagents that dissolves TiO_2 (and the other waste powders) would be more effective in meeting the aims and objectives of this study?
- Can the leach reagents be utilised in combination to achieve Ti-Mg isolation?
- What leach parameters (concentration, temperature, pulp density and leaching time) should be used during the leaching process to best achieve the objectives of leaching out the by products of the MCP process from the synthesized Ti-Mg alloy?

1.8 Dissertation Layout

This dissertation consists of five chapters. Chapter 1 provides the motivation for the research, the problem statement, and the overall objectives of this study. Chapter 2 contains the literature survey, which includes sections on mechanochemical processing (MCP) of Ti-Mg alloys and their possible uses. This chapter, however, predominantly dwells on dissolution literature of waste products of TiO_2 -Mg milling in the MCP synthesis of the Ti-Mg alloy, along with possible organic and inorganic dissolution media. Chapter 3 (Experimental Procedures) describes the materials, methods and equipment used in this study. Chapter 4 looks at the results and discussion. The dissertation concludes in Chapter 5 with a summary of the research findings and recommendations. Appendices of detailed laboratory test results and references are also included.

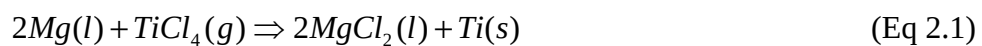
CHAPTER 2

2.0 Literature Survey

This Chapter reviews the literature on the processing of Ti metal and the possible reagents that have been used to leach Ti ores. It also reviews the literature on metal oxide dissolution in acids and stability of Ti-Mg alloys in aggressive media.

2.1 The Kroll Process for Ti production

The Kroll process is a pyro-metallurgical industrial process used to produce metallic titanium through the formation of titanium tetrachloride from rutile, and its subsequent reduction with an active metal such as magnesium. Refined rutile (or ilmenite) from the ore is reduced with petroleum-derived coke in a fluidized bed reactor at 1000 °C. The mixture is then treated with chlorine gas, forming titanium tetrachloride (TiCl₄) and other volatile chlorides, which are subsequently separated by continuous fractional distillation. In a separate reactor, the TiCl₄ is reduced by liquid Mg (15-20% excess) at 800-850 °C in a stainless steel retort to ensure complete reduction:



The MgCl₂ in Eq. 2.1 can be further refined back to magnesium and chlorine which are recycled in the process. Complications for the process result from partial reduction of the titanium tetrachloride to its lower chlorides TiCl₂ and TiCl₃.

The resulting porous metallic titanium sponge is purified by leaching or heated vacuum distillation. The sponge is jack hammered out, crushed, and pressed before it is melted in a consumable electrode vacuum arc furnace. The melted ingot is allowed to solidify under vacuum. It is often remelted to remove inclusions and ensure

uniformity. These melting steps add to the cost of production, and hence the ultimate product cost. Titanium is about six times as expensive as stainless steel (Gerdemann, 2001).

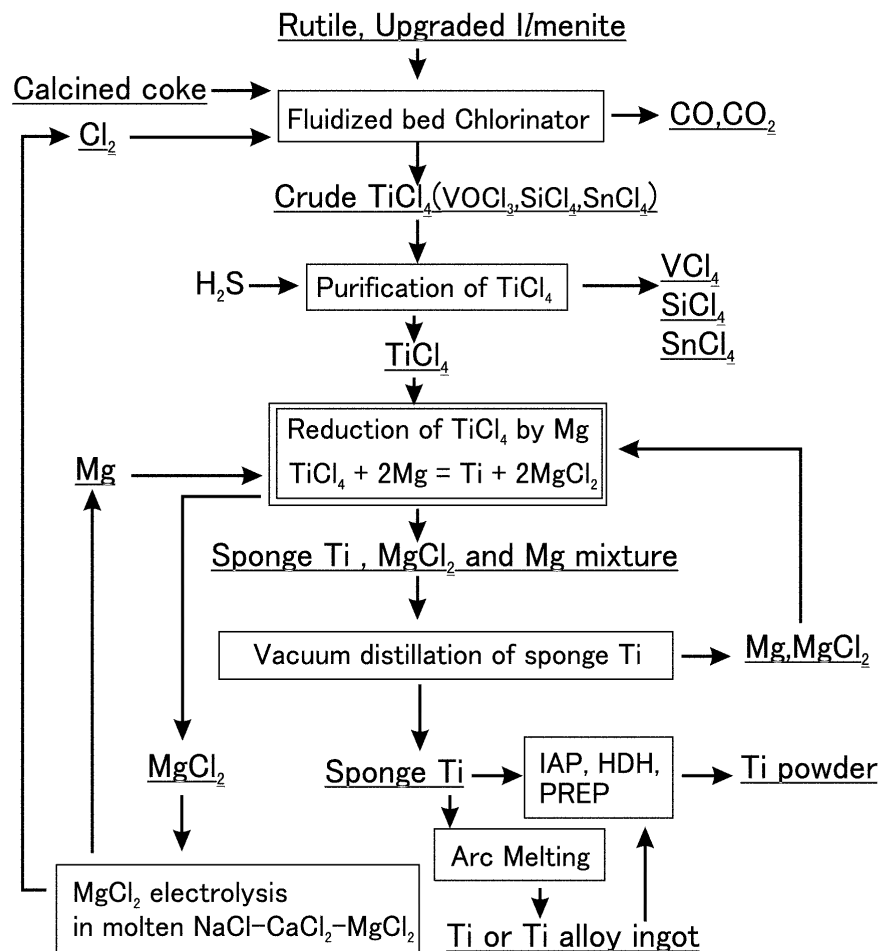


Figure 2.1: Flowchart for the Kroll process (Kroll, 1940)

The major advantage of the Kroll process is its ability to produce high-purity titanium with low oxygen content. However, the reduction process is a labour-intensive, batch-type process and its productivity is low. More fundamentally, the process does not allow for the production of alloy powders. The production of alloy powders directly from the titanium ores or titanium oxide can greatly assist in reducing the production

cost of titanium alloys. Consequently, a new titanium production process with low cost and high productivity is required (Takeda et al, 2006).

2.2 Mechanochemical Processing

Mechano-chemical processing (MCP) is a term applied to the simultaneous chemical processing to induce oxidation-reduction reactions and chemical refinement processes through solid state reactions. It is also used for mechanical alloying of powder materials to produce metallic alloys, for instance, Ti-Mg alloys. Mechanical alloying is a powder metallurgy process in which alloying is obtained from repeatedly welding, fracturing and rewelding of powder particles through high energy mechanical milling. All these processes occur through solid state reactions. This is enabled by the energy of impact of the milling media on the reactants which effectively substitutes for high temperature so that solid state reactions can be carried out at room temperature (Froes et al, 2004; Mckormick et al, 1998). There are various theories in literature of how the alloy powder forms (Lai et al, 2002; Welham et al, 1999; Wilkes et al, 1996; Sheibani et al, 2007; Mckormick et al, 1998; Suryanarayana, 2004).

The principal attributes of mechano-chemical processing with respect to the present research include ultrafine powder production, extension of solubility limits, refinement of the matrix microstructure/nano-grain formation, synthesis of novel crystalline phases, the possibility of alloying difficult-to-alloy elements and scalability (Mckormick et al, 1998).

2.2.1 MCP in the synthesis of Ti-Mg alloys

A possible method for the manufacture of Ti-Mg alloys is mechanochemical milling of rutile with more than stoichiometric quantities of Mg powders. There are two basic processes that would be expected to take place in the mechanochemical processing (MCP) of Ti-Mg alloy powders from ball milling of rutile and magnesium. The first process is the reduction of rutile to titanium monoxide (TiO) followed by further reduction of the monoxide to metal by Mg which itself changes to magnesium oxide (MgO) (Welham, 1998). The reduction to Ti metal takes place when stoichiometric Mg quantities are used as shown by the Equations 2.2 and 2.3 below. It is possible that sub-stoichiometric oxides form especially given the fact that the milling process is chaotic in nature.



For synthesis of Ti-Mg alloys, more Mg than the stoichiometric quantity is added to the TiO_2 . The stoichiometric Mg is all oxidised to MgO, while the excess quantity goes towards formation of Ti-Mg alloy (Welham, 1998). In this scenario, the summed up chemical equation for the process (from Eq 2.2 – 2.4) would be expressed as Equation 3.5:



The reduction and alloying processes depicted in Eq 2.5 occur chaotically, because of the random nature of the mechanochemical milling process. Thus reaction depicted in

Eq 2.5 may not go to completion. As such, excess Mg generally boosts the probability of synthesizing a sizable proportion of the Ti-Mg alloy.

2.3 Hydrometallurgical removal of waste powders.

The Ti-Mg alloy powder formed from the MCP of TiO_2 and Mg (Eq. 2.5) has to be separated from the other products of the process. This can be achieved through direct solubilisation in suitable reagent/s which should have very little effect, ideally none at all, on the dissolution kinetics of Ti-Mg alloy. Various organic and inorganic acids will be investigated as possible waste powder dissolution reagents.

Of all the waste powders produced, incompletely reduced TiO_2 (because it has higher surface energy relative to MgO) will probably be the most difficult to solubilize, and hence the emphasis will be on it. Surface energy quantifies the disruption of intermolecular bonds that occurs when a surface is created (Kiejna et al, 2006). It is presumed that the other waste powders will prove to be relatively easy to dissolve. TiO is expected to generally dissolve in media which dissolves TiO_2 because it is less stable than TiO_2 thus making it more amenable to dissolution by any media which attacks the more stable TiO_2 .

2.3.1 Metal oxide dissolution

Dissolution is the solvation of a solid by an aqueous chemical solution. It involves the use of a lixiviant which is brought into contact with a material to be dissolved (Kim, 2004). When an oxide is dissolved, the O^{2-} incipiently coordinated to cations in an oxide layer will be replaced by H_2O , OH^- or other ligands when the cations are transferred into solution. The key to identifying the overall rate of reaction lies in

understanding the factors that affect the elementary steps. The following steps are well-known:-

- mass transport of solutes (H^+ , OH^- , ligands) to the oxide surface;
- surface attachment of the solutes (adsorption or surface complex formation);
- various surface chemical reactions (inter-lattice transfers, etc.);
- detachment of products from the surface;
- mass transport of dissolved products into the bulk of the solution.

The general principles governing the mechanisms and kinetics of dissolution of oxides are not sufficiently known particularly because single oxides have seldom been intensively studied, and the range of conditions for the individual oxides varies from one author to the next in literature (Fedorockova et al, 2008).

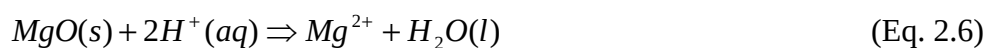
Many oxides are difficult to dissolve in mineral acids or chelating agents, for kinetic rather than thermodynamic reasons. The rate of dissolution of metal oxides in dilute acids may be affected by a large number of factors relating to both the solute and to the solvent. As already stated, current theories of the dissolution of ionic oxides predict that the dissolution rate should have an inverse exponential dependence on solution pH. These theories are concerned with situations in which dissolution rates are not governed by diffusion in the solution but are controlled by solid-liquid interactions in the interphase region (Jones et al, 1981).

Dissolution reactions are characterized as hydrolysis, alkaline, acidic, or oxidative and reductive leaching. The lixiviant in solution may be acidic or basic in nature. The type and concentration of the lixiviant is normally controlled to allow some degree of selectivity for the species that are to be solubilised. In the dissolution process,

oxidation potential, temperature, and pH of the solution are important parameters, and are often manipulated to optimize dissolution of the desired species into the aqueous phase (Kim, 2004). The process of leaching can be complicated by secondary reactions, such as precipitation, adsorption, or formation of complexes. The dissolution of mineral components and the behaviour of dissolved components is controlled by the system variables like pH, and the concentrations of the dissolved species. The sections that follow are going to review the literature on dissolution of the oxides that need to be solubilised in the current project.

2.3.1.1 Dissolution of MgO

The dissolution of MgO in acid is controlled by the chemical reaction of MgO with H^+ ions at the liquid-solid interface, while the dissolution rate of MgO crystals depends on the nature of the crystals and their surface orientation and on the temperature and concentration of the acid used (Sangwal, 1980). The dissolution of MgO in inorganic acids (HCl, HNO_3 and H_2SO_4) is a liquid–solid reaction in which no solid product is formed. The overall MgO dissolution process may be controlled by chemical reaction or by external mass transfer. It involves the diffusion of H^+ ions through the liquid film at the liquid–solid interface to the surface of the solid particles, surface chemical reaction and diffusion of liquid products of the reactions from the interface through the film to the bulk liquid. The stoichiometry of the reaction between MgO and hydrogen ion in solution is represented by Eq. 2.6.



The surface chemical reaction involves the transfer of magnesium cations and the oxygen anions from the solid to the solution, in which the cations will be hydrated. The transfer of the anions will involve protonation or hydroxylation reactions at the

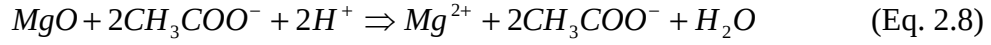
surface of the solid, to form water (Raschman et al, 2006; Fedorockova et al, 2008). The overall rate can be controlled by diffusion of dissolved reactants/products or by the surface reaction, depending on the reaction conditions.

Many authors (Raschman et al, 2006; Fedorockova et al, 2008) have shown that the empirical rate law $r = k [\text{H}^+]^n$ for MgO dissolution exhibits a fractional rate order n which is compatible with kinetic theories, and is indicative of a process controlled by surface reaction. However, there are situations when the application of different theoretical approaches results in identifying various potential rate-controlling steps for identical reaction conditions, with no clear basis for discrimination between these alternatives (Fedorockova et al, 2008).

The rate of MgO dissolution is insensitive to the concentration of dissolved cation; the dissolution rate increases as the concentration of magnesium (Mg^{2+}) ions in solution increases during dissolution of the first few monolayers of the oxide. MgO is relatively easily solubilised (Jones et al, 1981; Fedorockova et al, 2008). Although the reaction order for H^+ ions seems not to be affected by the type of acid used, the activation energy of the reaction in common inorganic acids changes in the order $\text{HCl} \leq \text{HNO}_3 < \text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$. The higher values of activation energy obtained for H_2SO_4 could indicate that the surface chemical reaction is controlled by different reactions between surface anions and protons created by dissociation of H_2SO_4 (Fedorockova et al, 2008).

Varying the concentration of HCl acid from 1.0 to 5.3 M has been found to decrease the dissolution rate of MgO (Raschman et al, 2006). When MgO is introduced in an inorganic acid the dissolution rate increases rapidly despite a decrease in H^+ concentration in solutions with low $\text{Mg}^{2+} : \text{H}^+$ molar ratios (Raschman et al, 2006).

For MgO particles in acetic acid solution, the principal chemical reactions and the corresponding equilibrium equations are listed as follows:



Acetic acid (Eq. 2.7) is a weak organic acid with a small equilibrium constant of about 1.8×10^{-5} . Dissolution of MgO in acetic acid (Eq. 2.8), can be finished in a reasonably short period of time, with the major salt produced being the water-soluble magnesium acetate which would turn into tetrahydrate, $Mg(CH_3COO)_2 \cdot 4H_2O$, after saturation (Chung et al, 2008).

2.3.1.2 Dissolution of TiO_2/TiO

The ease of dissolution of TiO_2/TiO appears to depend on phase. TiO_2 exists in three main phases which are anatase, brookite and rutile. It is generally considered that at low pressures only rutile has a true field of stability; anatase and brookite form as metastable phases (Banfield et al, 1993). Solution-phase preparation methods for TiO_2 generally favour the anatase structure. This is because the surface energy of anatase is lower than those of rutile and brookite (Reyes-Coronado et al, 2008). Surface energy quantifies the disruption of intermolecular bonds that occurs when a surface is created. Dissolution of TiO_2 (indeed any material) disrupts its bonds, and therefore consumes energy. Therefore the higher the surface energy, the more resistant a particular solid is to dissolution.

Literature (Van Humbeeck, 2009) has shown that dissolution of TiO_2 films in electrolytes free of aggressive fluoride (F^-) ions takes place uniformly all over the oxide surface, and not as a localized attack. The dissolution will essentially be chemical, with a dissolution rate exhibiting a first order dependence towards the protons concentration at low pH. Dissolution of TiO_2 films in acidic electrolytes is depicted by Eq. 2.11 where the hydroxide compound rapidly dissociates in acidic media (Van Humbeeck, 2009)



Titanium monoxide (TiO) is a lower oxide of Ti that is unstable at 700–800 K. During its synthesis, and under controlled partial oxygen pressure, it can dissociate to form either Ti_2O , Ti_3O_2 or Ti_2O_3 . TiO contains 16.7 at.% vacancies in the titanium and oxygen sublattices (Valeeva et al, 2001), making it a high energy state phase. The configuration of the force field around vacancies ensures rapid shrinking of the lattice in the direction away from its centre. This leads to sub-micropitting when the atoms nearest the vacancies dissolve away (Gutman, 1998). Therefore it is expected that TiO should generally dissolve in media which dissolves TiO_2 since it is less stable than TiO_2 (Valeeva et al, 2001; Gutman, 1998, El-Hazek et al, 2007).

2.3.2 Reagents for leaching TiO_2

Various possible TiO_2 leaching media have been reported in the literature including sulphuric acid, hydrochloric acid (Chun et al, 2007), organic acids (Mukherjee, 2005) and aqua regia. Aqua regia is a mixture of nitric acid and hydrochloric acid in the volume ratio 1:3 (Bachman, 1999). It is expected that TiO should also dissolve in media which dissolves TiO_2 . This is because, as noted above, TiO is less stable than

TiO₂ and is expected to be rapidly attacked by any media which attacks the more stable TiO₂.

The choice of the leaching reagent in this project will be based on the possible effects to be avoided, such as dissolution of the Ti-Mg alloy powder. One of the aims of this project will be to clarify the sensitivity of the Ti-Mg alloy towards dissolution and to optimize the leaching conditions to avoid the undesirable chemical reactions as well as to develop a cheap and technologically feasible method of separating the Ti-Mg alloy powder from the waste powders.

2.3.2.1 Sulphuric acid leaching

TiO₂ dissolves when it comes into contact with H₂SO₄, titanium going into solution as positively charged ions. The precise compositions of the aqueous species that form are controversial, particularly because of difficulties in achieving thermodynamic equilibrium in these systems. In acid media, at pH less than 1.3 in the absence of complex forming reagents like SO₄²⁻ ions, titanium dissolves to form monomeric divalent cations (assumed to be TiO²⁺) (Sole, 1999). The dissolution of TiO₂ is enhanced by mechanical pretreatment which increases the lattice strain and surface area of oxide particles (Sasikumar et al, 2007).

The dominant species during the dissolution of TiO₂ in sulphuric acid is TiOSO₄.2H₂O, represented more accurately as Ti(OHO)₃(HS)₄. This structure consists of an infinite zigzag of –Ti-O-Ti-O- chains where titanium is octahedrally coordinated by two bridging oxygen atoms, an oxygen atom from each of three sulphate ions, and

one water molecule. Species such as TiOSO_4 , $[\text{TiO}(\text{SO}_4)_2]^{2-}$ and $[\text{TiO}(\text{SO}_4)_4]^{4-}$ also form (Eqs 2.11 – 2.13) with increasing sulphate concentration (Sole, 1999).



Polymerized titanium (IV) species exist in aqueous sulphate media (from H_2SO_4) and the maximum polyions concentration occurs at sulphuric acid concentrations of 1.4 to 1.6M. At higher concentrations; the polymeric species are destroyed and at 5 to 8M monomeric species predominate. The rate of TiO_2 dissolution increases with sulphuric acid concentration up to 14M since the concentration of hydrogen cations peaks there. Optimum extent of TiO_2 dissolution can reach 87% (Sole, 1999).

There are problems of hydrolysis when lower acid concentrations (1.5M- 4M) of free sulphuric acid) and high temperatures (90–110°C) are used. For instance, in 4M sulphuric acid the hydrolyzed product has a compact structure and is strongly adherent preventing further dissolution of the un-reacted rutile. In contrast, in 0.9M acid solutions, the hydrolyzed product will be poorly compacted and dissolution could continue. In both cases the hydrolysis product is thought to be rutile TiO_2 (Chun et al, 2007). It therefore appears that with sulphuric acid leaching of TiO_2 , the acid concentration should be kept within certain limits to avoid formation of solid products which may contaminate the Ti-Mg powder alloy.

Literature also reports on the use of reagent mixtures based on H_2SO_4 to dissolve TiO_2 . Some of these reagents were concentrated H_2SO_4 mixed with $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$, and concentrated H_2SO_4 mixed with HF (Korn et al, 2002). For $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4/(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$, 0.4g of

TiO₂ was dissolved in 16ml of concentrated H₂SO₄ with 0.06M (6.4g) of (NH₄)₂SO₄. The mixture was heated for 30 minutes at 250°C to effect complete dissolution of the sample (Korn et al, 2002). With H₂SO₄ in HF, a 4g oxide sample was digested in 10ml of concentrated HF and 16ml of concentrated H₂SO₄ and the mixture was heated to 200°C until evolution of SO₃ fumes. The mixture was then cooled before adding 10 ml of concentrated HF, followed by heating to 200°C until SO₃ fumes were evolved. After cooling, the above procedure was repeated continuously until complete decomposition was effected at about 4 hours (Korn et al, 2002). The above two procedures are very aggressive and are meant for total decomposition of TiO₂, without much regard to preservation of anything else that could be intermixed with the oxide. For this research work the above procedures would have to be modified and made less aggressive because of the need to preserve Ti-Mg alloy powder.

2.3.2.2 Hydrochloric acid leaching

When titanium oxide and or its compounds are introduced to hydrochloric acid, Ti⁴⁺ ions form initially but may hydrolyze back to titanium dioxide (El-Hazek et al, 2007). The hydrolysis occurs when Ti⁴⁺ concentration is greater than 10⁻³M and when the concentration of hydrogen ions is less than 0.5M as can happen with a relatively low initial acid/ilmenite mole ratio. At a high acid to rutile ratio, the Ti(IV) concentration in solution may never reach the threshold concentration required for hydrolysis. High leach temperatures lead to rapid hydrolysis resulting in the precipitation of TiOCl₂ and TiO₂ in the pores of the particles. At lower temperature or at higher initial acid to rutile mole ratios, the hydrolysis reaction does not proceed as rapidly and this results in the formation of TiOCl₂ fines in the leach solution. The TiOCl₂ may be hydrolyzed to TiO₂ if the acid concentration decreases significantly. Thus, with hydrochloric acid,

there should be accurate control of parameters like acidity and acid/solid ratio to avoid hydrolysis (El-Hazek et al, 2007).

Addition of phosphate and fluoride to hydrochloric acid and or using alcoholic hydrochloric acid solutions has been found to enhance the leaching of ilmenite/rutile. For instance, leaching of ilmenite with 6M HCl and 0.5M methanol–water (CH₃OH-H₂O) mixture at 110°C and solid/liquid ratio (S/L) of 0.02 g/mL results in the dissolution of 91% Ti compared to dissolutions of 53.5% Ti in 6M HCl alone (Olanipekun, 1999).

It appears that the optimum conditions for TiO₂ leaching in hydrochloric acid involve working with 12M acid with a solid/liquid ratio of 1/20 at 80 °C for 2.5 h, using ore ground to – 200 mesh size. This has a dissolution efficiency of 95% (El-Hazek et al, 2007). As a leachant, hydrochloric acid allows comparatively easier recovery of the useful free acid from its waste solution. In addition, the recovery of a number of metal ions by liquid–liquid extraction from hydrochloric acid solutions is considerably easier than that from sulphuric acid medium (Olanipekun, 1999).

2.3.2.3 Aqua regia leaching

Aqua regia is formed from a freshly prepared mixture of concentrated nitric and hydrochloric acids, in a volumetric ratio of 1:3 respectively. It is a highly corrosive, fuming yellow or red solution. It was so named because it can dissolve noble metals gold and platinum, although titanium, tantalum, iridium and osmium are able to withstand it. Neither constituent acid will do so alone, because, in combination, each acid performs a different task. Nitric acid is a powerful oxidizer, which will dissolve a metal element forming cations (Mⁿ⁺). The hydrochloric acid provides a ready supply

of chloride ions (Cl^-), which react with the metal cations to produce chlorometal anions, also in solution.

2.3.2.4 Organic acid leaching

TiO_2 dissolves in organic reducing reagents namely ascorbic acid, oxalic acid and l-cysteine. Studies indicate that a maximum of about 45% TiO_2 can be dissolved by ascorbic acid in 4 hours when oxide/acid molar ratio is 1/2 (Mukherjee, 2005). With oxalic acid and ascorbic acid in equi-molar concentrations, dissolution of TiO_2 is up to 60% in 2.5 hours. The dissolution rate was found to be 50% in 1 hour when cysteine was added (Mukherjee, 2005). Organics need to be added to TiO_2 in mixtures if better dissolution rates are to be realized (Mukherjee, 2005). This could pose problems when an acid regeneration step is necessary since the different organic acid components may respond differently to the regeneration reagent(s) employed.

2.3.3 Stability of Titanium and its alloys in aggressive media

Titanium element is characterized by a very negative standard redox potential ($E^\circ = -1.63 \text{ V/S.H.E. } \text{Ti}^{2+}/\text{Ti} \downarrow$). However, it has a high chemical stability due to the formation of a very resistant and protective oxide layer on its surface. The oxide layer forms from the rapid oxidation of Ti to Ti^{4+} ions, which in acids, exist only as titanyl ions ($\text{Ti}(\text{OH})_2^{2+}$) even at pH values below 1. Beyond that, they evolve into $\text{Ti}(\text{OH})_4$, which precipitates and dehydrates, resulting in the most stable form TiO_2 which is the main component of the passivating layer. The phenomenon of passivation is a guarantee of excellent resistance to corrosion in various electrolytic media (Fovet et al, 2001).

Ti-based alloys are usually very resistant to some organic acids, e.g., acetic and lactic acid, but can be corroded by others such as formic acid and citric acid. However, aerated solutions often suffice to inhibit corrosion of unalloyed Ti in the stronger organic acids, such as formic, lactic and citric. The dissolution of titanium is known to be extremely slow even in aggressive media such as HCl or H₂SO₄, for example. However, titanium does dissolve in concentrated hydrofluoric acid (HF) (Schmidt et al, 2006). Ti shows marked resistance to corrosion and pitting in seawater and oxidizing chloride solutions. Pitting can be observed on Ti surfaces under anodic polarization in bromide containing aqueous solutions, mainly in HBr media (Schmidt et al, 2006).

2.3.3.1 Dissolution of Ti-Mg alloys

The titanium-magnesium alloys exhibit high negative values of corrosion potential and substantial corrosion rates during anodic polarization. The character of the anodic process on such a pseudoalloy is determined by the influence exerted by its magnesium component, and is unaffected by the presence of the titanium skeleton. Titanium has good corrosion resistance and passivity which, in principle, should be transferable to Ti-Mg alloys in order to improve their corrosion resistance. The incorporation of titanium in these alloys gives rise to a self-healing corrosion layer and reduced galvanic potential (Dias et al, 2002).

The anodic dissolution of titanium-magnesium composites is characterized by independence of electrochemical reactions. In tests in a KOH solution, the Ti-Mg composites exhibited high corrosion resistance: Their rates of dissolution in the whole component concentration range did not exceed 0.03 mm/yr (Frantsevich et al, 1993). Ti-Mg alloys are novel materials; research into these is still centred on their synthesis.

Consequently, literature on corrosion tests of Ti-Mg alloys in HCl, H₂SO₄, aqua regia and the organic acids is still scarce.

2.3.4 Influence of mechanical activation on dissolution

The influence of mechanical activation on dissolution of finely milled minerals has recently attracted attention. Mechanical activation introduces physicochemical changes like phase transformations, structural defects, strain and changes in the surface characteristics of minerals, which in turn enhance the dissolution rate and/or extent of dissolution (Sasikumar et al, 2007).

There are three ways in which dissolution is enhanced. Oxygen vacancies, brought about by the chaotic nature of the mechanical activation, are among the primary chemically active defects on the surface of reducible transition metal oxides. These act as direct adsorption sites, and also as electron donor sites thus modifying the surface electronic structure and thus the surface chemistry (Wendt et al, 2005). They are also high energy sites, because they possess force fields which predispose the nearest atoms in the vicinity of the vacancies to dissolution leading to micropitting (Gutman, 1998).

The formation of line defects, called dislocations, during mechanochemical processing can also affect dissolution. Like the vacancies mentioned above, dislocations also are associated with stress fields, which make them high energy sites, and therefore more reactive. The effect of dislocations can however be tempered in the presence of impurities. On the one side, when the impurities segregate at the dislocations, their mechanochemical activity decreases because of stress relaxation

(therefore, 'old' dislocations are more difficult to etch) (Gutman, 1998). On the other hand, the extent of dissolution may increase because a change of the chemical composition of the region of exit of the dislocation may reduce their corrosion resistance (Gutman, 1998).

2.3.5 Benefits of leaching out waste powders

Ti-Mg alloy is a high value product with a potentially lower density and has potential to be used in the aerospace, biomedical and marine industries. By definition high value products are those which are difficult to make, are made from expensive precursors or have a high energy cost in manufacture (Welham, 1999). Value addition for the Ti-Mg alloy can be achieved by simplifying the route of synthesis through using MCP rather than conventional ingot metallurgy (or other complex far from equilibrium processes), for instance, to ensure increased solid solution of Mg into Ti (Gerdemann, 2001). It can also be achieved by using TiO_2 powder, which is a relatively low cost precursor, as a starting material in the mechanochemical process rather than using elemental Ti from the expensive Kroll Process (Takeda, 2006).

Mechanochemical processing (MCP) of TiO_2 and Mg to synthesize Ti-Mg alloy forms a number of by products. MCP is a process which is scaleable to commercial production quantities, unlike certain other "far from equilibrium" processes (Koch, 2003). Thus, to realize full benefits from the process, it is imperative that the waste products of MCP are separated from the synthesized Ti-Mg alloy powder.

CHAPTER 3

3.0 Experimental Procedures

3.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the techniques used in this project. It starts by describing the techniques used to characterize the powders used, followed by the hydrometallurgical procedures used to recover the Ti-Mg alloy.

3.2 Test powders

The TiO_2 -Mg powder samples used for the hydrometallurgical separation project were supplied by the CSIR and most specific parameter details of the milling aspect are thus protected by CSIR copyright. The TiO_2 -Mg powder samples were continuously milled for 32 hours. The total masses mixed were 80g TiO_2 and 60g Mg; this translated to 15 wt.% excess Mg, relative to the stoichiometric Ti produced from complete reduction of TiO_2 . The Mg powder was 15% more than stoichiometric quantity to increase the proportion of the Ti-Mg alloy thus synthesized. The powders were also characterized for phase and particle size distribution, before the hydrometallurgical separation procedures.

Elemental Ti-20(wt.%)Mg milled powders and polycrystalline commercial rutile (TiO_2) and magnesium oxide (MgO) were also subjected to the reagents used in the separation procedures. The Ti-20Mg alloy was synthesized from mechanical alloying of blended elemental Ti and Mg from another CSIR project, itself also protected by CSIR copyright. The objective was to determine the dissolution of individual particulate polycrystalline MgO and TiO_2 , and Ti-20Mg and use their dissolution behaviour and extrapolate it on the dissolution of the MCP synthesized powders. The

TiO₂ and MgO were not pre-milled. The alloy Ti-20Mg was obtained from mechanical alloying of blended elemental (BE) Ti and Mg powders, and is distinct from the alloy obtained from the MCP process which is intimately mixed with other by products.

In total four different categories of powders were used in this research; namely milled TiO₂-Mg, Ti-20Mg (from blended elemental powders), as well as commercial TiO₂ and MgO. It is the milled TiO₂-Mg powder mixture that generates the species MgO, Ti-Mg and unreacted TiO₂ and Mg; this mixture will, henceforth, be referred to as TiO₂-Mg to differentiate it from Ti-20Mg from BE powders and commercial TiO₂ & MgO powders.

3.3 Powder Characterisation

3.3.1 X-ray Diffraction (XRD)

TiO₂-Mg powders mechanochemically processed (MCP) for a duration of 32 hours (including an unmilled TiO₂-Mg, Ti and Mg) were taken for phase analysis by XRD to determine the phases present and, more importantly, to ascertain the relative degree to which the reduction and alloying had progressed. Leached powder residues were also taken for XRD analysis to determine the phases, and their relative intensities, that resisted dissolution. Analysis of the residue phases should, therefore, give an indication of those phases that would have largely dissolved in the individual leach reagents.

The phase compositions of the powders were determined using XRD analysis. An X'Pert Pro MPD, Philips PW1710 diffractometer with a graphite monochromator and Cu K α radiation was used. The copper XRD tube was excited using voltage and anode

current of 40kV and 20mA respectively, and step-scanning measurements were done in the range from 10 to 70° 2θ , with a step of 0.02° 2θ and a counting time of 1s per step.

3.3.2 Particle size analysis

Particle Size Analysis (PSA) was carried out with a Malvern Particle Size Analyzer MS2000, based on the principle of laser diffraction. A Microtrac Bluewave Analyzer was also used. Powder particles, each sample about 10 milligrams, were suspended in a dispersant (water) and an ultrasonic agitator before a monochromatic laser beam is projected through the suspension. The powder particles scatter the laser beam at an angle that is inversely proportional to their size. The angular intensity of the scattered light is then measured by a series of photosensitive detectors (Figure 3.1). The map of scattering intensity versus angle is the primary source of information used to calculate the particle size. Particle size analysis (PSA) was carried out on pre-milled blended powders, and the milled powders. Residues powders after leaching were not particle size analyzed.

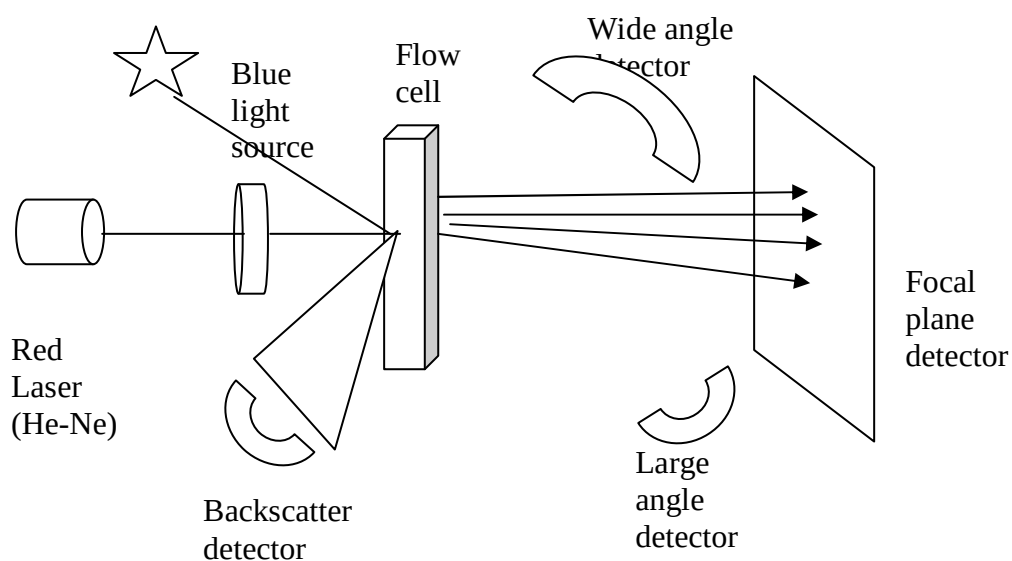


Figure 3.1: Schematic diagram of the laser diffraction measurement

3.3.3 Morphological characterisation of MCP powders

The morphology of both pre-milled and milled samples was investigated using a Jeol JSM-6300F scanning electron microscope (SEM) at an accelerating voltage of 15 kV. The samples were coated with carbon to enhance conductivity, and hence achieve better resolution of the micrographs. The morphology of the unmilled and milled TiO_2 -Mg helps to explain the progress of reduction and/or alloying; composition becomes homogenous and there will be no distinction between the initial powders (Lai et al, 2002).

3.4 Hydrometallurgical experiments for recovery of MCP synthesized Ti-Mg alloy powder

The separation of the waste constituents (by-products TiO , MgO ; and incompletely reduced oxides of Ti and Mg) from the Ti-Mg alloy powder was done through direct dissolution in suitable organic and inorganic acids/reagent(s). The inorganic reagents used were sulphuric acid (H_2SO_4), hydrochloric acid (HCl), aqua regia, concentrated H_2SO_4 with hydrofluoric acid (HF), and concentrated H_2SO_4 with ammonium sulphate. The inorganic reagents were equi-molar oxalic/ascorbic acids, and equi-molar l-cysteine/ascorbic acids. These inorganic and organic acids named above gave good dissolution of TiO_2 , a difficult to dissolve phase from Literature (Chun et al, 2007; Sole, 1999; Imahashi et al, 1976; Mukherjee, 2005).

The dissolution experiments were carried out in a Julabo SW23 Shaking Waterbath (Figure 3.2), equipped with a removable shaking carriage that accommodates up to 11 round bottomed, graduated flasks. The shaking frequency is adjustable from 20 to 200 rpm. The flasks openings were sealed with aluminium foil to minimize spillage of

contents and evaporation of the leaching reagents during the agitated, heated leach runs. The waterbath setup was placed in a fume cupboard.

The dissolution experiments were performed in 250 ml flat bottomed flasks. For each run, 200 ml of acid solution of predetermined molarity was charged into a flask and heated to the required temperature. Thereafter, powder sample was added to the flask and the contents were stirred at a constant speed. The leach parameters were temperature 90°C (for inorganic acids) and 60°C (for organic acids), stirring speed of 200rpm and liquid/solid ratio of 100ml/1g. The high liquid/solid ratio was meant to decrease the viscosity of the slurry and consequently the mass transfer resistance in the acid-powder particle interface.

The molarities used for sulphuric acid (H_2SO_4), hydrochloric acid (HCl), aqua regia were 0.1M, 0.5M, 0.9M and 1.3M while 0.025M, 0.05M, 0.075M and 0.1M were used equi-molar oxalic/ascorbic acids, and equi-molar cysteine/ascorbic acids. The molarity of equi-molar cysteine/ascorbic acids was extended to 0.8M in order to understand its effect better. The mixtures of inorganic reagents were based on concentrated H_2SO_4 with a molarity of 3M, 4M, 5M and 6M mixed with 0.06M ammonium sulphate, and with 0.1M hydrofluoric acid.

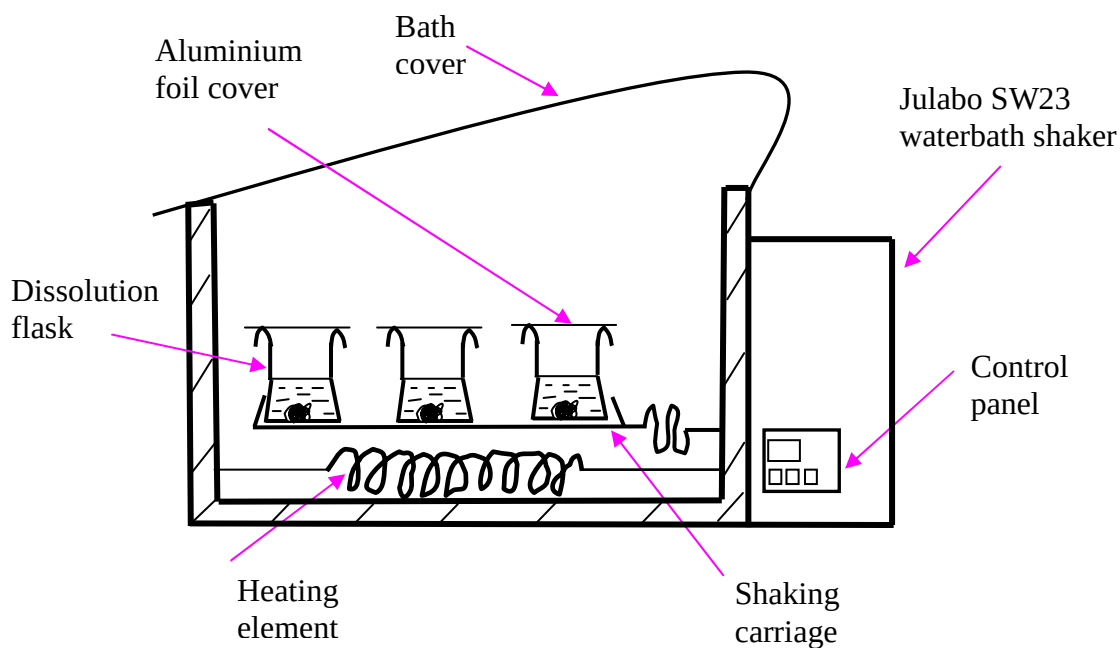


Figure 3.2 Setup of the Julabo SW23 dissolution apparatus

The duration of leaching was 40 minutes for inorganic acid and 2.5hrs for organic acids. At the end of each dissolution experiment, the individual residues were filtered, washed with distilled water and dried. These residues were subsequently weighed, and, for each leach solution, the percent residues were plotted against concentration to give dissolution graphs (Appendix D). They were also analysed for phases by XRD as described in Section 3.3.1.

CHAPTER 4

4.0 Results and discussion

4.1 XRD characterisation of powders

The XRD patterns of the TiO_2 -Mg blended powder, MCP TiO_2 -Mg, and Ti-20Mg from blended elemental powders are shown in Figure 4.1. This figure also shows the patterns of unmilled elemental Ti and Mg, and Ti-20Mg milled for 32 hours.

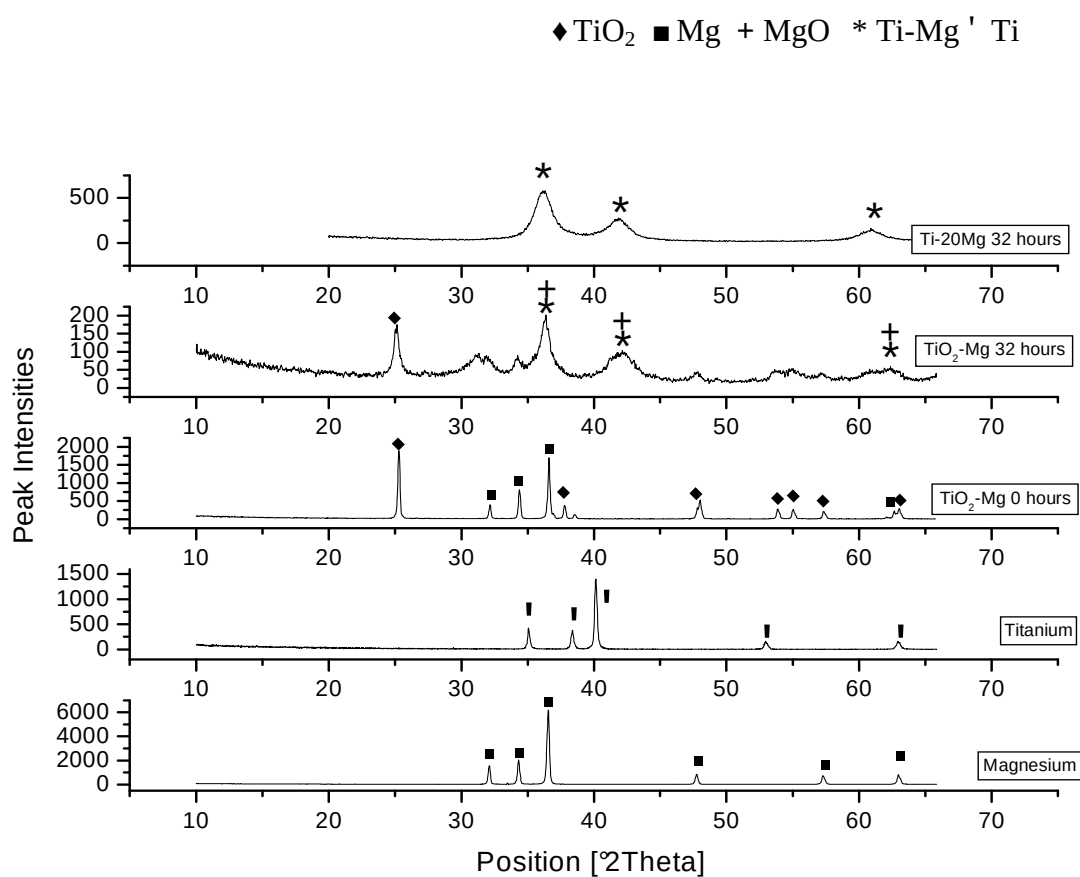


Figure 4.1: X-ray diffraction patterns of the TiO_2 -Mg powder mixtures milled for various durations

The intensities of TiO_2 and Mg peaks reduced while the peaks broadened, from the initial TiO_2 -Mg powder to that milled for 32 hours, indicating a reduction in the grain size. A new peak, determined as being that of MgO could be seen, indicating that the reduction reaction was mechanically activated. The observation of the formation of MgO and the lowering in peak intensity of TiO_2 and Mg (Figure 4.1) on the XRD patterns suggests a typical oxidation-reduction reaction that involves displacement of Ti from TiO_2 by Mg, resulting in formation of MgO as indicated by Eq. 4.1



The enthalpy of formation for 2MgO is -1 204kJ which is about four times lower than that of TiO_2 (-315kJ), so that the reaction as mentioned in Eq. 4. 1 is a forward single step reaction (Shankar et al, 2003).

4.1.1 Proportion of Ti-Mg synthesized

The extent of the reduction of TiO_2 by Mg was evaluated from the Eq. 4.2 (Lai et al, 2002):

$$D = \left(\frac{I(\text{TiO}_2)}{I(\text{TiO}_2) + I(\text{MgO})} \right) \times 100 \quad (\text{Eq. 4.2})$$

where I is the intensity of the diffraction peaks of MgO and TiO_2 . The initial TiO_2 peak intensity was 1 625 while the final MgO peak intensity was 250. Therefore, the reduction of TiO_2 at the optimised MCP duration was evaluated from Eq. 4.2 to be 90%. The assumption in using Eq. 4.2 was that there was no formation of substoichiometric oxides of Ti and, from XRD data (Fig 4.1), there was no evidence of Ti_xO_y substoichiometric oxides. Lastly, the degree of crystallinity was assumed to be the same in all phases present in the milled powder.

Thus, 10% of the TiO_2 remained unreduced at the end of the milling process and the rest took part in the mechanochemically induced reduction and alloying. Stoichiometric quantities of TiO_2 and Mg powders were mixed (Eq. 4.1) and the maximum theoretical amount of free Ti formed was calculated. Total reduction of the TiO_2 was assumed. It was on the basis of the maximum amount of Ti that can be theoretically formed that the mass of 15wt.% excess Mg was calculated. The sum of the excess Mg (Eq. 4.3) and the stoichiometric TiO_2 and Mg (Eq. 4.1) formed the precursor powder blends mechanochemically processed (MCP) for different durations.



The expected products (MgO and Ti-Mg) and their masses, assuming the reaction goes to completion, are 80.6g MgO and 55.1g Ti-Mg alloy. All the excess Mg was expected to go into solution with Ti to form the Ti-Mg alloy powder. However, this was not entirely the case as the XRD pattern of the MCP powders showed evidence of oxides of Ti. The reduction reaction did not go to completion.

However, it was shown using Eq. 4.2 that only 90.4% reduction of the initial TiO_2 mass was achieved. The remaining TiO_2 phase was essentially unchanged after milling for 32 hours, except for refinement of the particle sizes (Figure 4.4). Hence, of the 79.9g TiO_2 added, 72.2g (90.4%) was reduced by the reductant Mg. From this, and using proportion calculations, it was found that the masses of products at 90.4% reduction were 72.9g MgO and 43.3g Ti. The amount of Mg in the MgO product is 43.9g; thus the difference of 11.9g (from the 55.8g initially added) went towards mechanical alloying with free Ti from the reduction process. The amount of free Ti at

90.4% TiO_2 reduction was calculated to be 43.3g such that the total mass of Ti-Mg alloy synthesized was 55.2g.

The constituents in the mechanochemically processed product and their respective masses are 7.7g unreacted TiO_2 , 72.9g MgO and 55.2g Ti-Mg alloy. This translated to weight percentages of 5.6%, 53.7% and 40.7% respectively. Thus at 32 hours of milling 40.7% Ti-Mg alloy powder is synthesized (Appendix A2). The proportions of the various constituents in the milled powder are shown in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1: Calculated composition of the milled powder at 32 hours of milling

Constituent	Unreacted TiO_2	Ti-Mg alloy	MgO
Weight %	5.7	40.7	53.7
Constituent mass, (g) {from 2g samples}	0.114	0.814	1.07

4.1.2 Morphological evolution of MCP powders

Figure 4.2 gives the morphologies of the MCP TiO_2 -Mg powders; the perfectly spherical particles in Figure 4.2(a) are TiO_2 while the irregular platy particles in Figure 4.2(b) are Mg. There was a discernable size difference between the Mg and TiO_2 powders, with the former being coarser.

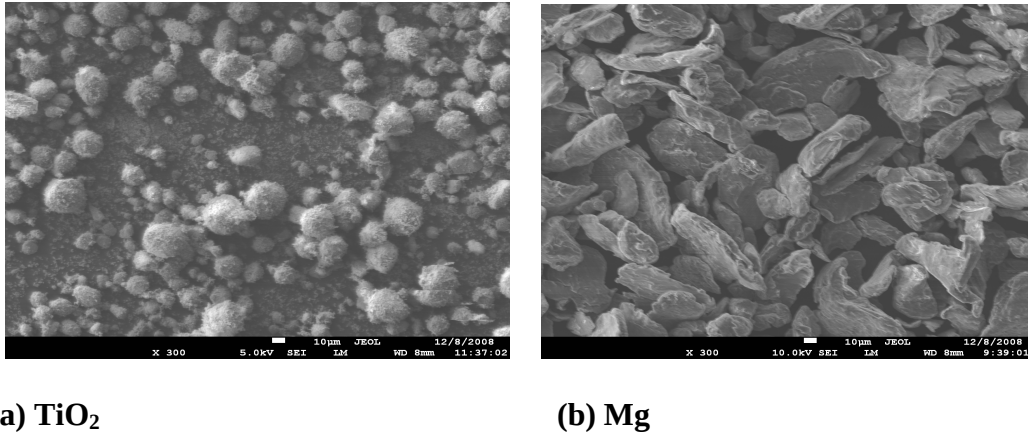


Figure 4.2: SEM micrographs of the individual starting powders

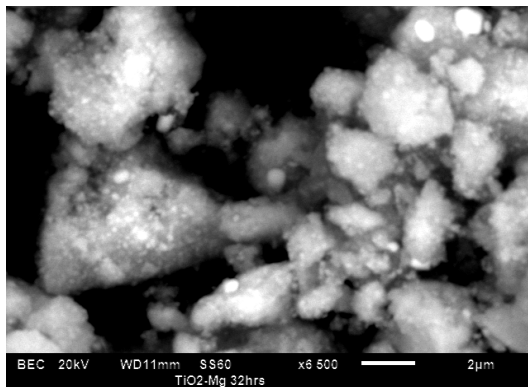


Figure 4.3: SEM micrograph of TiO₂-Mg powders milled for different durations.

The Mg powder particles lost their initial morphologies which were replaced by a globular morphology while the TiO₂ powder particles were indistinguishable from the Mg (Figure 4.3). It is possible that the TiO₂ particles, which are expected to be brittle, already fractured and were lodging themselves into the soft Mg particles (Mckormick et al, 1998). Higher magnifications revealed that the globular particles themselves were agglomerates of smaller particles that appeared to be welded together. This evolution of morphology is in line with the ball milling process which proceeds through repeated welding, fracturing and rewelding of powder particles, (Mckormick et al, 1998).

4.1.3 Particle Size Analysis

Figure 4.4 shows the particle size distribution of the TiO₂-Mg powder mix mechanochemically processed for 32 hours.

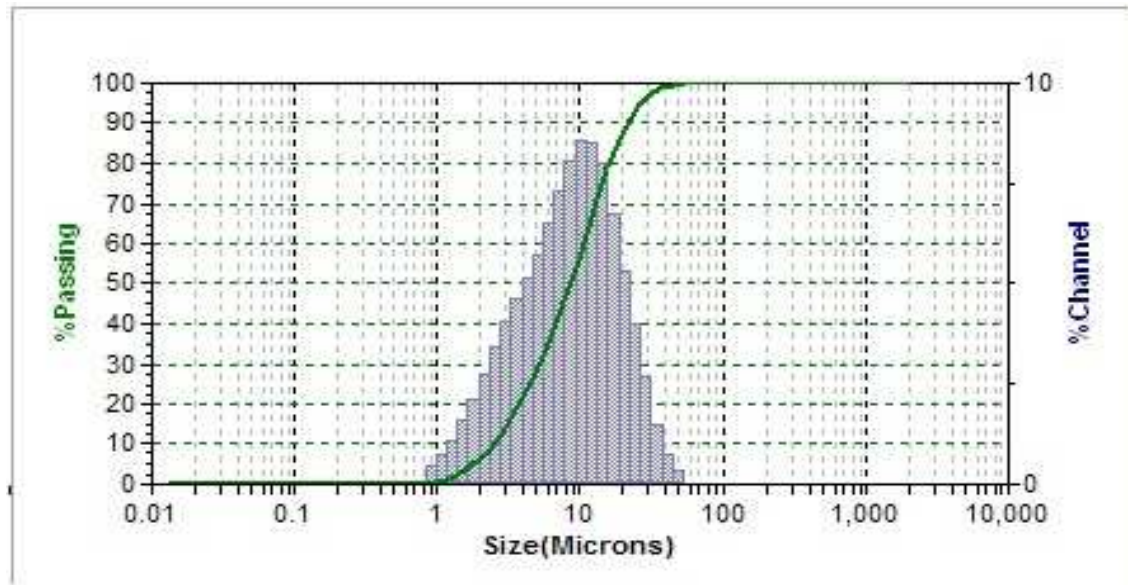


Figure 4.4: Particle size distribution of TiO₂-Mg powder milled for 32 hours

The MCP TiO₂-Mg powder mix was composed of the particles with a d₅₀ of 8.6 microns. The steep gradient of the distribution curve indicates that the powder had a narrow size range, with a d₁₀ and a d₉₀ of 2.5 and 21 microns, respectively. The narrowing of the size range was a direct result of mechanochemical processing, where steady state sizes are achieved due to the balance between fracturing and rewelding. This is typical of milling operations. Unmilled TiO₂-Mg powder had a much wider particle size ranges (Appendix B8, Table B1 and Figure B1).

4.2 Hydrometallurgical recovery of MCP synthesized Ti-Mg alloy powder

The synthesis of Ti-Mg alloy through direct reduction of TiO₂ with excess Mg during MCP formed by-products which included MgO, unreacted TiO₂ and minute quantities of Mg (Eq. 2.4). The value product, Ti-Mg alloy powder, has to be recovered from its

intimate mixture with the by-products of mechanochemical reduction. Dissolution experiments were carried out to separate the mechanochemically synthesized Ti-Mg powder alloy from the waste powders.

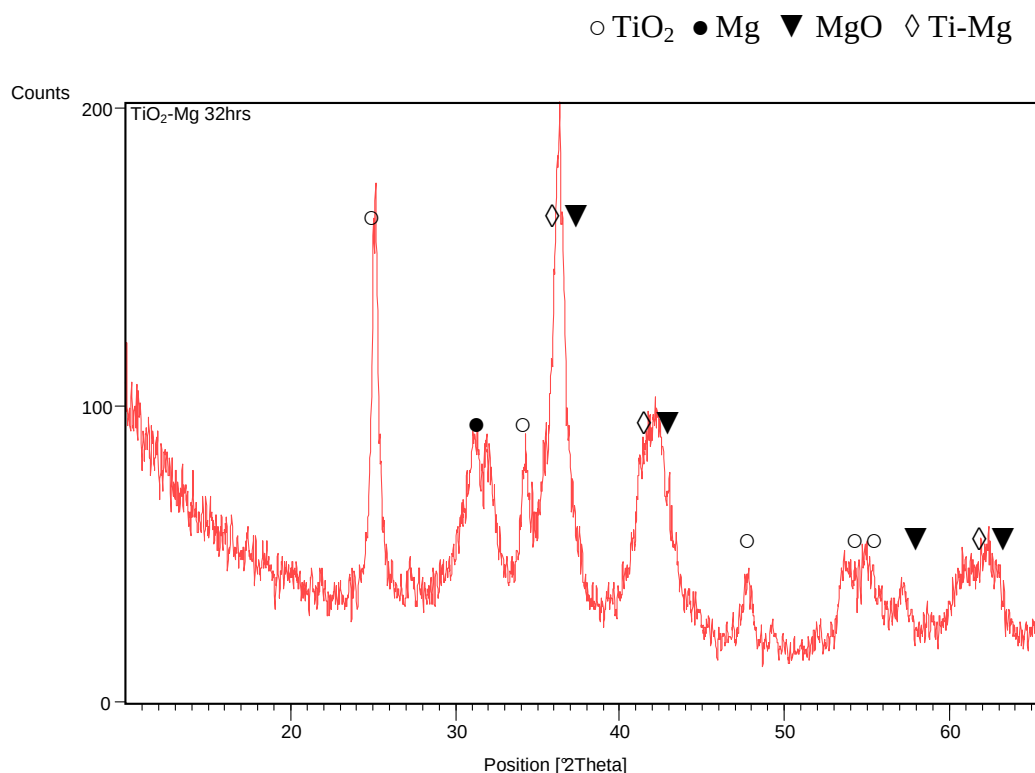


Figure 4.5: XRD spectra of TiO₂-Mg milled for 32 hours

Figure 4.5 shows the XRD patterns of processed TiO₂-Mg powder mix. The peaks of incompletely reduced TiO₂ are visible as well as the peaks for the products of milling which are Ti-Mg alloy and MgO. The spectra also shows the strength (hence the relative abundance of each constituent) of the peak intensities relative to each other. As indicated by the spectra, MgO and the Ti-Mg alloy are the major phases and they occur at seemingly overlapping 2 θ values of 36.5, 42.5 and 62°.

The MgO peaks are seen to be more intense than any other peak implying that MgO had become the main phase, with TiO₂ peaks being the second most prominent peaks on the pattern. The new phases (MgO and Ti-Mg) had broader, less intense peaks indicating that their crystallinity was low. It is possible that the crystallinity of TiO₂ was higher hence it got to be the second most prominent phase. It has been shown that while 2 wt.% of a material can be detected if the particle size range is 26 -38 microns, 25wt.% is required if the particle size range is 0.05 – 1 microns (Shankar et al, 2003). Thus, that TiO₂ has a prominent peak could have been a consequence of fracturing dynamics and particle size, as well as the relative abundance of phase. However, from particle size analysis (Figure 4.4), the d₅₀ of 9 microns is a lot larger than the 0.05 – 1 micron range. This, in effect, meant that the individual peaks intensities in Figure 4.5 had more to do with the relative abundance of the respective phases, and a lot less to do with fracturing dynamics of the powder species therein.

In the dissolution experiments conducted, the liquid/solid ratio used was 100ml/1g. The ratio was deliberately made high and is ideal, from the viewpoint of fundamental kinetic analysis, to decrease the viscosity and consequently the mass transfer resistance in the acid-powder particle interfaces (Sasikumar et al, 2007). Lower ratios are only more realistic from an industrial and scale up point of view. Further, the acid will be sufficient to react evenly with each and every constituent in a given powder without affecting the dissolution or lack thereof of the other constituents. Thus, it can be assumed that the dissolution behaviour of independent commercially pure TiO₂ will be comparable to that of incompletely reduced TiO₂ intimately mixed with Ti-Mg alloy and MgO in the milled TiO₂ mixture, from the mechanochemical process. The dissolution of the milled components is bound to be slightly higher, though, because of dissolution enhancement brought about by mechanical activation (Gutman, 1998).

4.2.1 Effect of leaching in dilute sulphuric acid

Figure 4.6 shows the results of the leaching experiments performed using H_2SO_4 . The masses of the residues are given in Table D1 in Appendix D. About 40% MgO was dissolved at the lowest acid concentration and all the MgO was subsequently dissolved in acid concentrations of 0.5M and beyond.

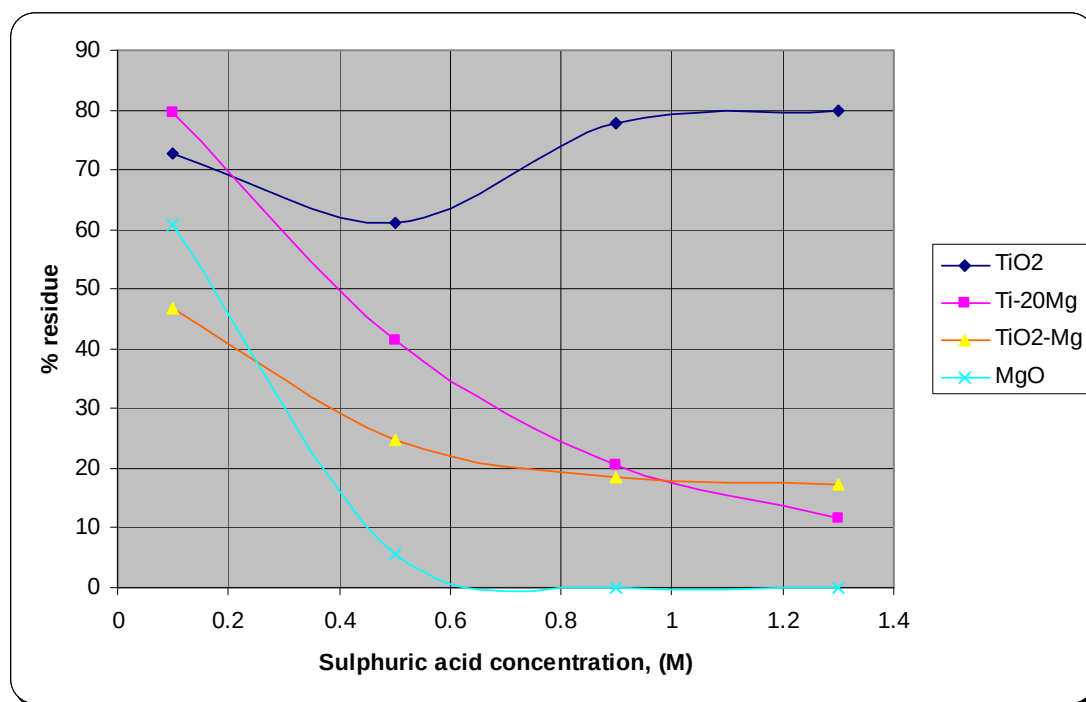


Figure 4.6 Effect of H_2SO_4 concentration on the leaching of the individual powders

For TiO_2 , slightly less than 30% dissolved at 0.1M sulphuric acid with about 40% dissolving as the concentration was increased to 0.5M. However, a further increase in acid molarity was accompanied by a sharp reduction in the proportion of dissolved TiO_2 . The amount of dissolved oxide then levelled off at about 20% at higher acid molarity. The low dissolution of titanium in acid concentration higher than 0.5M is probably due to hydrolysis, polymerization and precipitation of titanium ions in solution (Sasikumar et al, 2007). At acid concentrations below 1.5M, the hydrolyzed

product will be poorly compacted and dissolution could continue although more slowly. The hydrolysis product is thought to be rutile TiO_2 (Chun et al, 2007). Sulphuric acid isolation of the Ti-Mg alloy powder is not viable as it is being solubilised faster than the wastes (TiO_2) in the concentration ranges studied. The curve for TiO_2 -Mg does not rise as the TiO_2 curve in the range 0.5-1.3M; there is no correlation between the masses leached in both curves. This apparent lack of dissolution congruency (common elements or compounds in the two powders dissolving at the same rate) could be due to the species common to both powders being in different ratios (Welham, 1998). Amount of oxides of Ti in MCP TiO_2 -Mg could have been insignificant to cause any curve changes similar to those in the TiO_2 curve. This observation could imply that species other than incompletely reduced TiO_2 (Ti-Mg and MgO) were the ones predominantly dissolving while unreduced TiO_2 in MCP TiO_2 -Mg was largely resistant.

About 20% of the independent Ti-20Mg dissolved at 0.1M H_2SO_4 with the dissolution increasing with increasing acid concentration until there was only 11.7% left at 1.3M. About 53% of the MCP TiO_2 -Mg powder dissolved in 0.1M H_2SO_4 ; this is much higher than the amount of TiO_2 that dissolved for the same concentration. The dissolution rate decreased with increasing acid concentration and, above 0.9M, the amount of powder dissolved became independent of the acid concentration. This was reminiscent of the behaviour of the TiO_2 oxide at higher acid molarity.

The similarity in dissolution behaviour between TiO_2 and processed TiO_2 -Mg at higher acid concentrations could imply that incompletely TiO_2 was now one of the dominant phases left in TiO_2 -Mg after other phases had been largely leached out. This

was supported by the XRD pattern (Figure 4.7) of TiO_2 -Mg leached at 0.5M which was already showing that TiO_2 peaks (along with peak intensities) were more dominant than those of other phases. It is apparent that in the acid concentration range used, the MCP TiO_2 -Mg residue decreased from 47.7% to 17.2% and this went way below the theoretically calculated Ti-Mg proportion of 40.7% (Table 4.1). The value shows that the Ti-Mg alloy phase dissolved to a big extent.

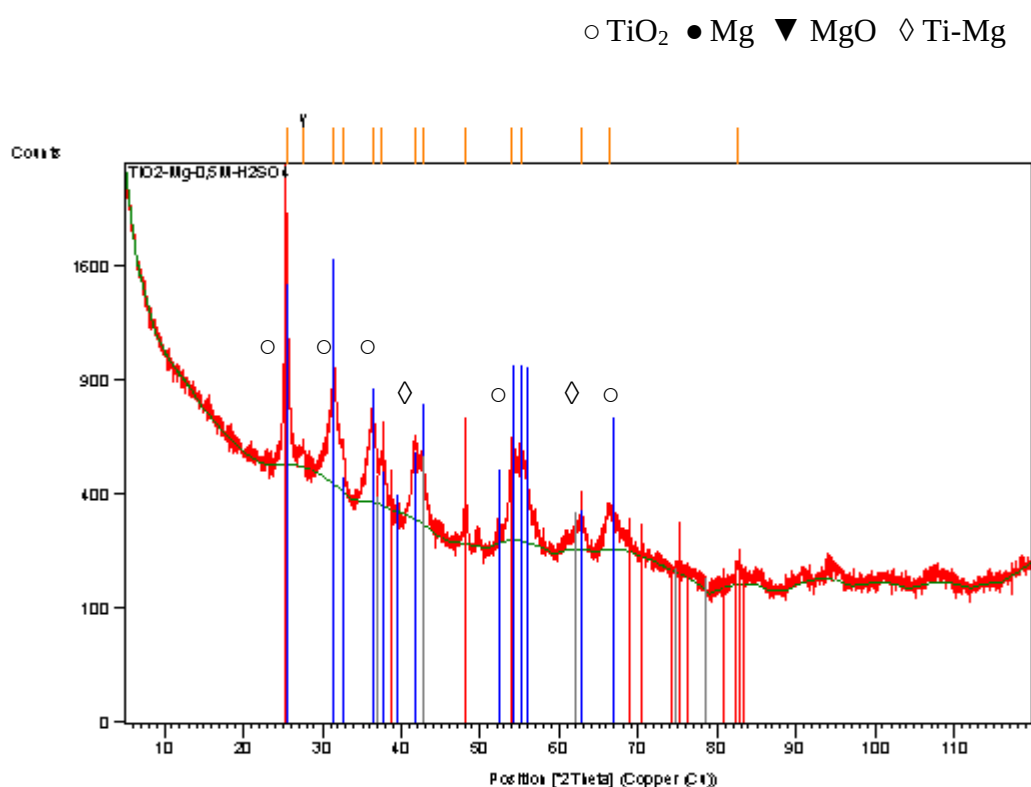


Figure 4.7 XRD pattern of milled TiO_2 -Mg residue leached in 0.5M H_2SO_4 .

Figure 4.7 shows the XRD pattern of mechanochemically processed TiO_2 -Mg residue leached at 0.5M H_2SO_4 . The pattern shows that dissolution did not appear to be proportional to the initial masses of the respective constituents in the milled mixture. However, it is apparent that the TiO_2 peaks have become the most prominent after

leaching, while before, they were the second most prominent. It is possible other phases in the milled TiO_2 -Mg were dissolved at higher rates than TiO_2 .

TiO_2 , which constituted only 5.7% of the whole mixture, was still present in the pattern at 0.5M sulphuric acid even though only 25% (Figure 4.6) of the initial TiO_2 -Mg residue remained undissolved. Meanwhile, independent polycrystalline MgO was completely dissolved at 0.5M (Figure 4.6). This implied that the MgO in milled TiO_2 -Mg was all leached out as well, and this can be corroborated by the lack of MgO peaks in the XRD patterns of the powder milled at 0.5M H_2SO_4 .

The leaching of TiO_2 powder showed peak dissolution of 39% at 0.5M in the acid range 0.1-1.3M. Literature has shown that dissolution of TiO_2 can get as high as 65% in H_2SO_4 (Sasikumar et al, 2007) albeit with more aggressive parameters which will not augur well for the synthesized Ti-Mg alloy in MCP TiO_2 -Mg powder blend.

4.2.2 Effect of leaching in concentrated sulphuric acid (with enhancers)

Figure 4.8 shows the leach behaviour of the powders with variation in the concentration of H_2SO_4 (enhanced with 0.1M HF). TiO_2 had a constant dissolution of slightly below 40% across the whole concentration range. Ti-20Mg residue was at 40% initially before it gradually decreased to almost 1% at 6M acid concentration, while MgO was completely dissolved in all concentrations.

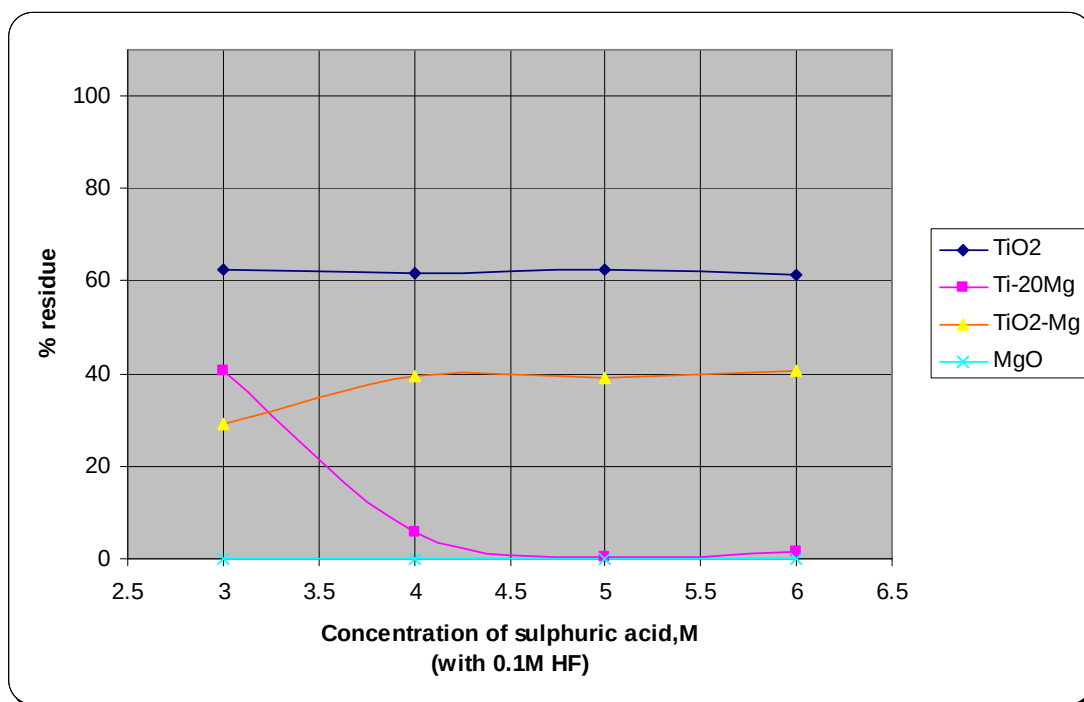


Figure 4.8: Effect of leaching in concentrated H₂SO₄ with HF

Figure 4.9 shows the XRD patterns of TiO₂-Mg powder leached in 0.5M H₂SO₄ (enhanced with 0.1M HF). The patterns indicated that the TiO₂ was resistant to dissolution since its peaks became the more dominant ones after leaching.

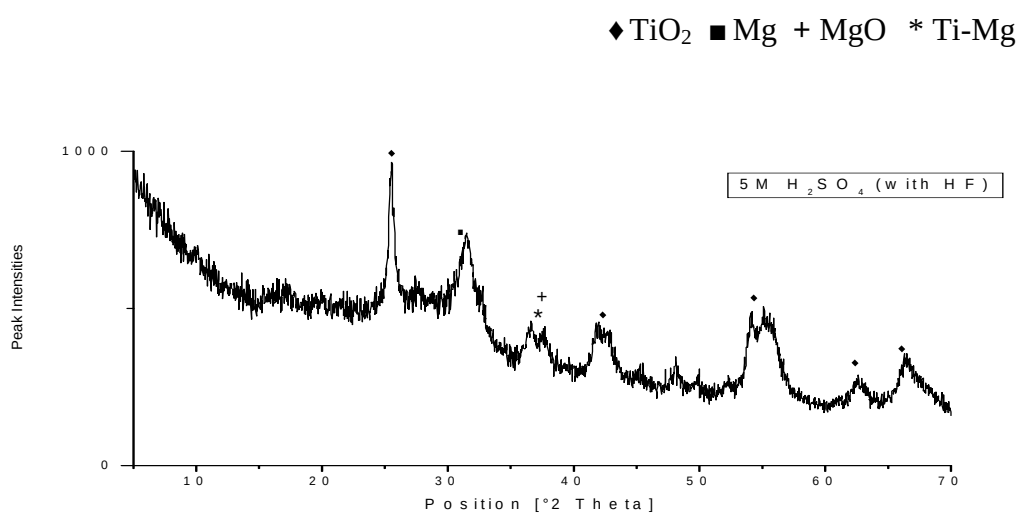


Figure 4.9 XRD pattern of milled TiO₂-Mg residue leached in 0.5M H₂SO₄ (with 0.1M HF)

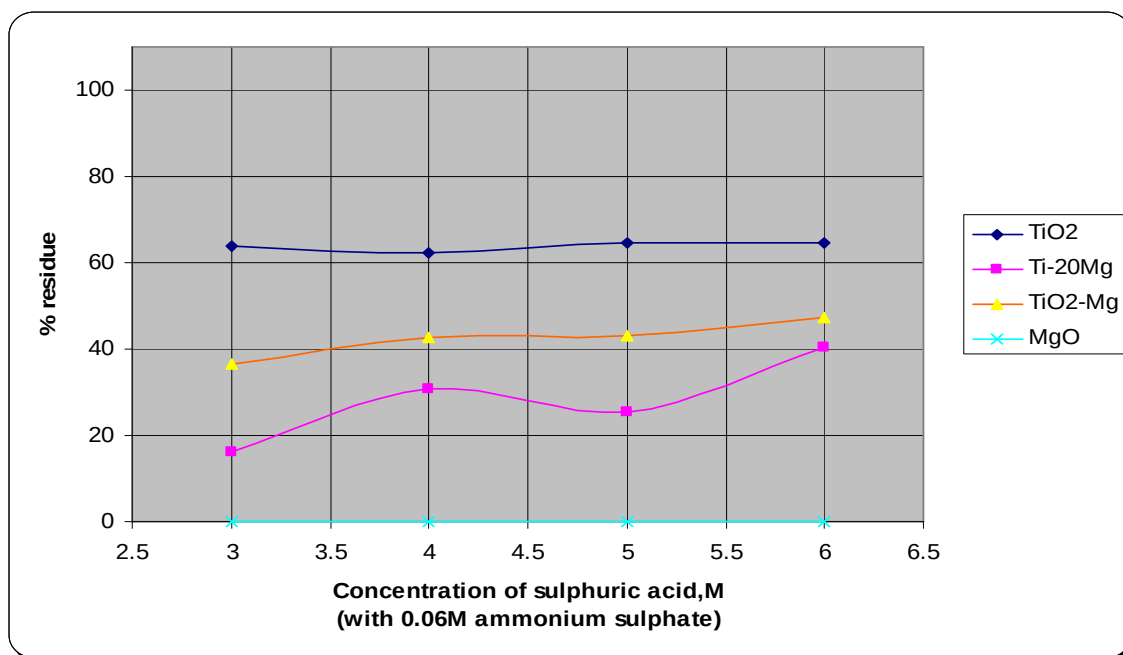


Figure 4.10: Effect of leaching individual powders in concentrated H_2SO_4 with $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$

Figure 4.10 shows the extent of dissolution in relation to increase in the concentration of H_2SO_4 (enhanced with 0.06M $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$). The results show that TiO_2 dissolution, which was virtually constant and fluctuated slightly at 33%, was independent of concentration in the acid range investigated. There was reduced dissolution of TiO_2 -Mg and Ti-20Mg powders at elevated reagent concentrations. Their respective residues gradually increased with increase in acid concentration; TiO_2 -Mg was 36% at 3M and it got to be 47% at 6M, while Ti-20Mg was 16% and ended up being 40% at 6M. Independent, polycrystalline MgO completely dissolved across all the molar concentrations used.

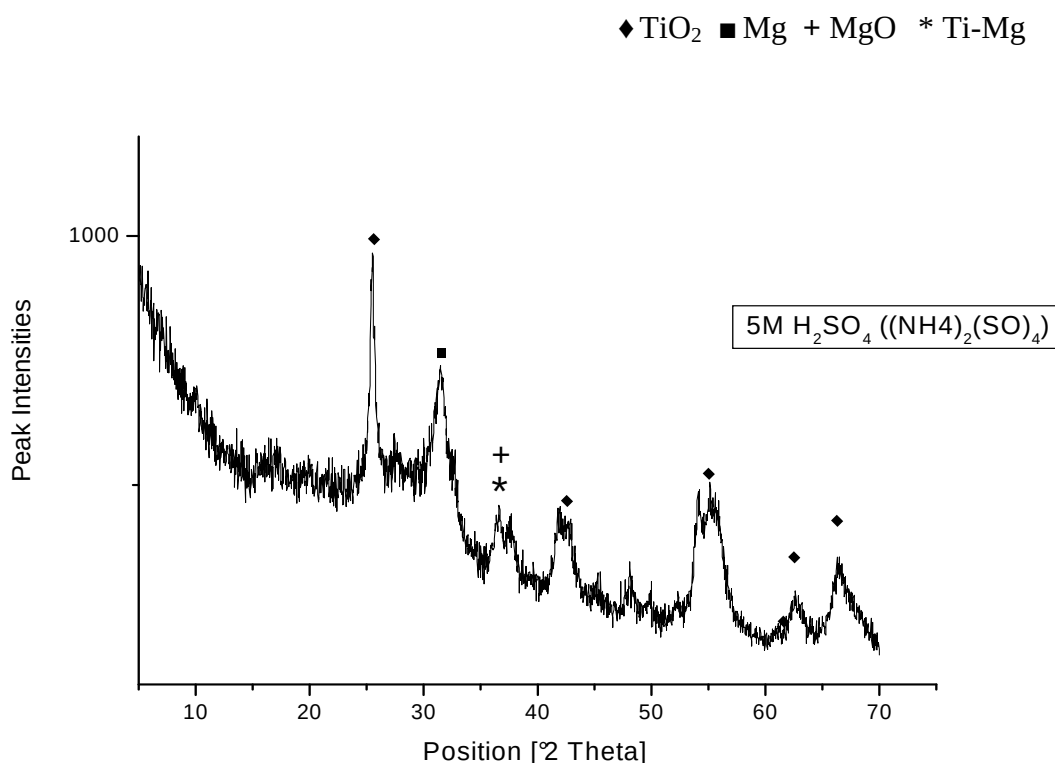


Figure 4.11 XRD pattern of milled TiO₂-Mg residue leached in 0.5M H₂SO₄ (with 0.06M (NH₄)₂SO₄)

Figure 4.11 shows the XRD pattern of the MCP TiO₂-Mg powder residue leached in 0.5M H₂SO₄ (with 0.06M (NH₄)₂SO₄). Just like the patterns of powders leached with H₂SO₄ (HF), Figure 4.11 shows that the TiO₂ phase became the more dominant after leaching. This indicated that TiO₂ was more resistant to dissolution compared to other phases; it was intimately mixed with in the MCP TiO₂-Mg powder.

Leaching of powders in concentrated H₂SO₄ with 0.1M HF (Figure 4.8), and in concentrated H₂SO₄ with 0.06M (NH₄)₂SO₄ (Figure 4.10) showed that TiO₂ was largely undissolved in both leach media. The degree of dissolution of TiO₂ in both H₂SO₄/HF and H₂SO₄/(NH₄)₂SO₄ was virtually the same. It follows that the individual

additions of HF and $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$ to concentrated H_2SO_4 leach media did not have any effect on the dissolution properties of TiO_2 .

Concentrated H_2SO_4 with 0.1M HF cannot be satisfactorily used to isolate Ti-Mg alloy from MCP TiO_2 -Mg powders because the oxides of Ti did not show much amenability to dissolution. There was about 60% (Figure 4.8) undissolved polycrystalline TiO_2 which is unacceptably high. The independent alloy (Ti-20Mg) was completely dissolved at higher acid concentrations which showed that the Ti-Mg alloy in the MCP TiO_2 -Mg would not be spared dissolution as well.

4.2.3 Effect of leaching in hydrochloric acid.

The fraction of each individual powder extracted vs. concentration plots for the different HCl concentrations are given in Figure 4.12. Concentration of the leachant has a significant effect on the leaching of the TiO_2 -Mg and MgO powders whose residues drastically decreased with increase in HCl concentration. The proportion of TiO_2 -Mg residue decreased to about 35% at 0.5M concentration after which it tapers off and finally gets to about 22% remaining at 1.3M hydrochloric acid. This translates to a mere 0.44g from the initial 2g sample. From theoretical calculations (Appendix A2), Ti-Mg is 40.7% of the milled TiO_2 -Mg powder blend. This means that, at 1.3M, almost half of the calculated proportion of Ti-Mg alloy powder from the mechanochemical process has been leached out.

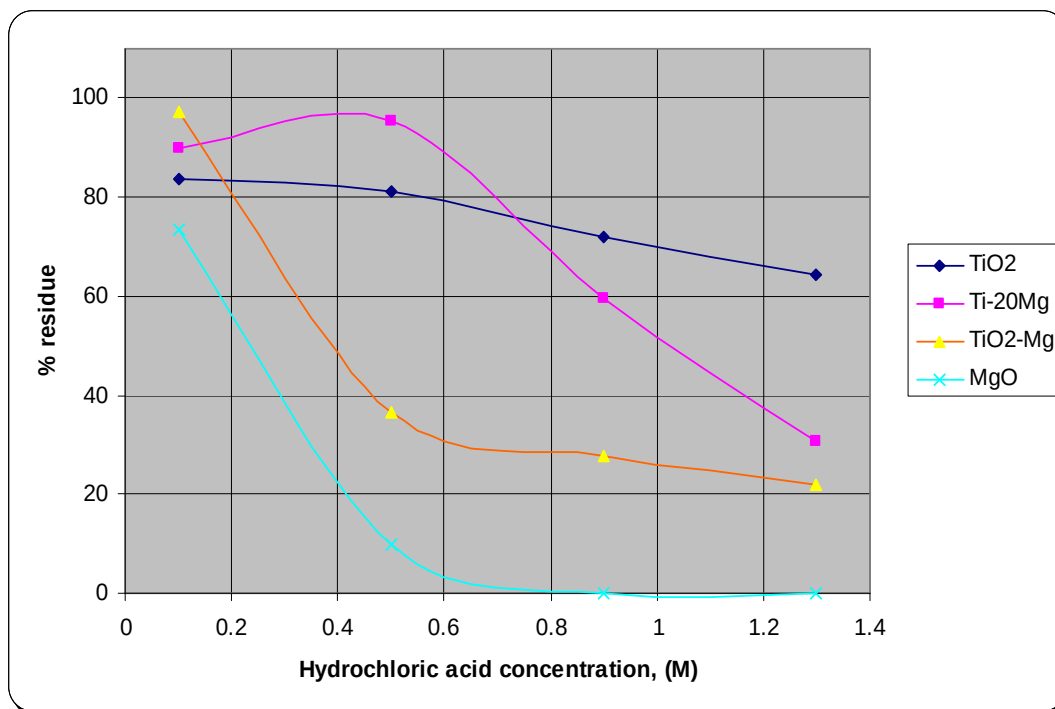
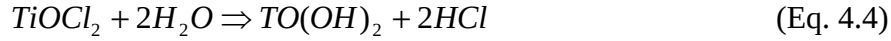


Figure 4.12: Effect of HCl concentration on the leaching of the individual powders.

From Figure 4.12, proportion of the TiO₂ residue at each acid concentration gradually decreased from slightly over 80% at 0.1M to just over 60% at 1.3M. In no case was the fraction of TiO₂ dissolved more than 40%. Clearly, the initial unprocessed TiO₂ was not readily amenable to hydrochloric acid dissolution at the acid concentration range under consideration. This is probably due to hydrolysis and precipitation reactions of Ti ions in solution, and reactions usually set in at elevated temperatures and at specific acid concentrations for prolonged periods of leaching (Sasikumar et al, 2007). Hydrolysis of Ti ions is favourable at higher temperatures (>70 °C), longer leaching time (>45 min) and at acid concentrations lower than 8M (<8M HCl) (Sasikumar et al, 2007). It is the hydrolysis of dissolved Ti which makes dissolution of TiO₂ in hydrochloric acid very difficult.

It is possible that TiO_2 precipitated from Ti ions in hydrolysed TiOCl_2 species. The entire precipitation reaction occurs accompanied by the hydrolysis of TiOCl_2 and via the formation of an intermediate hydroxide (Eq. 4.4):



The intermediate then disintegrates to give a TiO_2 precipitate and water (Eq. 4.5).

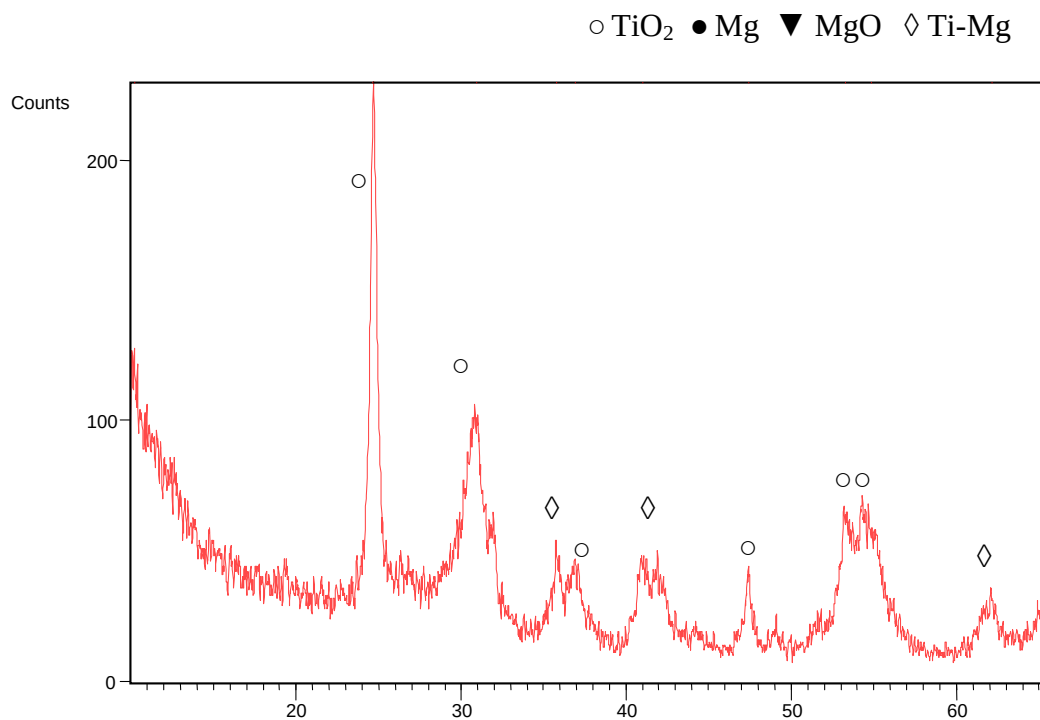


Figure 4.13: XRD pattern of milled TiO_2 -Mg residue leached in 1.3M HCl acid

The XRD spectra for some of the leach residues corresponding to HCl leaching is presented in Figure 4.13 which shows patterns of TiO_2 -Mg leached in 1.3M HCl acid. Initially, before leaching, the top three peaks' intensities are all above 100 with the overlapping MgO/Ti-Mg peak at 2θ 36.5° being the most prominent (Figure 4.5).

However, after leaching, the MgO/Ti-Mg peak became less pronounced and the TiO₂ peak at 25° got to be the most pronounced. Other lesser peaks of insufficiently reduced and undissolved TiO₂ also became more prominent at the 1.3M leach run.

Although the MgO phase was leached in 40 minutes of leaching, the dissolution of TiO₂ rutile phase was found to be low even at the end of the leaching run. The TiO₂ phase has become the most prominent on the XRD patterns of TiO₂-Mg leached at 1.3M (Figure 4.13). This most likely indicated that other phase components in MCP TiO₂-Mg, namely MgO and Ti-Mg, had largely dissolved in the leach media. At the same HCl, independent polycrystalline MgO was completely dissolved while 30% of the independent Ti-20Mg alloy from elemental powders remained undissolved (Figure 4.12). The deduction is that, after leaching in 1.3M, the mechanochemically processed TiO₂-Mg powder contained TiO₂ and some bit of Ti-Mg alloy as evidenced by the presence of these phases on the XRD patterns (Figure 4.13).

4.2.3.1 Cyclic leaching with 0.1M HCl

At 0.1M HCl, there was very little dissolution of the TiO₂-Mg (3%). This was lower compared to the TiO₂ and MgO (16% and 26%, respectively), which needed to be leached out of the milled mixture. It was postulated that the pattern at 0.1M acid concentration, where more TiO₂-Mg was undissolved compared to TiO₂ and MgO, could be maintained by subsequent cyclic leaching runs at the same conditions. Cyclic leaching is the process where a powder is leached, filtered, dried and re-leached for a number of cycles under the same leach conditions. The amount of incompletely reduced oxides of Ti (and MgO) was envisaged to incrementally dissolve at each cyclic leach of the milled TiO₂-Mg mixture, without affecting the value Ti-Mg alloy

(in the milled $\text{TiO}_2\text{-Mg}$) to a larger extent. For purposes of comparing the dissolution behaviour under the cyclic leaching, polycrystalline MgO and TiO_2 were also leached under the same conditions.

The results of cyclic leaching in HCl at 0.1M are shown in Figure 4.14. At the first cyclic run, $\text{TiO}_2\text{-Mg}$ residue was 97% while those of TiO_2 and MgO were 82% and 73%, respectively. However, there was more of TiO_2 (57%) residue than any other leached powder at the end of the cyclic leach runs, the next most abundant residue was Ti-20Mg with 52%. The milled $\text{TiO}_2\text{-Mg}$ dissolved more and more until the last run when it had the lowest residue left compared to the other powders. Its value at the third and final run was a drastically low at 33% and, at this point there was no need to continue the cyclic leaching runs, further cyclic leach runs only dissolved the $\text{TiO}_2\text{-Mg}$ further without much effect on the TiO_2 powder.

The amount dissolved depends on the initial quantity of the dissolving phase, and the kinetics of dissolution. A lower initial quantity will result in a lower dissolved mass, which means a higher residue. For MCP $\text{TiO}_2\text{-Mg}$ and using the Lai equation (Eq. 4.2), the starting Ti-Mg and MgO proportions were high, being 40.7% and 53.7%, respectively. These calculated proportions are just indicative; they are not absolute. It is the proportion of Ti oxides which is low at 5.7%. Only 3% of the $\text{TiO}_2\text{-Mg}$ mixture dissolved; this could indicate that the initial mass of the dissolving phase is low. In the three cyclic leaching runs, TiO_2 residue reduced from 82% to 57% while MgO was from 73% to 42%. For the same conditions processed $\text{TiO}_2\text{-Mg}$ decreased from 97% to 33%. Recovery of Ti-Mg alloy powder would prove difficult since the MCP $\text{TiO}_2\text{-Mg}$ was dissolving at a faster rate compared to the by-product powders.

The XRD patterns of the TiO_2 -Mg residues leached in HCl (Figure 4.13) continue to show the presence of TiO_2 . Thus, it would appear that the low initial dissolution was because of low kinetics of dissolution rather than on the relative quantities of the powder constituents in the MCP TiO_2 -Mg. It therefore follows that dissolution at lower concentrations was mainly of MgO and the Ti-Mg alloy.

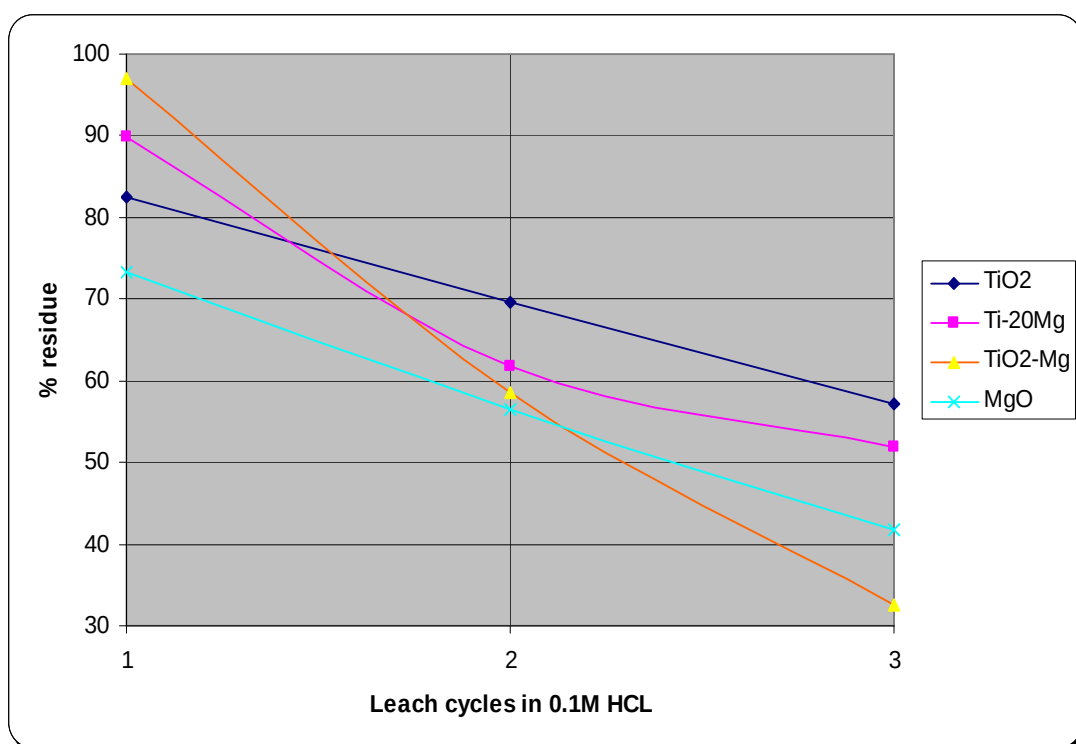


Figure 4.14: Cyclic leaching of the individual powders at 0.1M HCl

It is not possible to use cyclic leaching with HCl (Figure 4.14) to isolate Ti-Mg alloy powder as every other mechanochemically processed TiO_2 -Mg powder constituent, with the exception of TiO_2 , was largely dissolving. In this case, cyclic leaching is more or less similar to leaching for a more prolonged duration at the same parameters. Thus, HCl cannot be used to separate the synthesised Ti-Mg alloy powder from the waste powders.

4.2.4 Effect of leaching in aqua regia

The dissolution of the various powders in aqua regia is shown in Figure 4.15. TiO_2 -Mg showed gradual dissolution from 20% at the initial 0.1M acid concentration to 70% at 1.3M. All the MgO was completely dissolved at concentrations of 0.5M to 1.3M. TiO_2 did not show appreciable dissolution as only about 22% was dissolved at 1.3M. For Ti-20Mg, 38% was dissolved at 0.1M concentration. Thereafter, the amount of Ti-20Mg residue gradually increased with increased aqua regia concentration until it tapered off at about 90% at 1.3M.

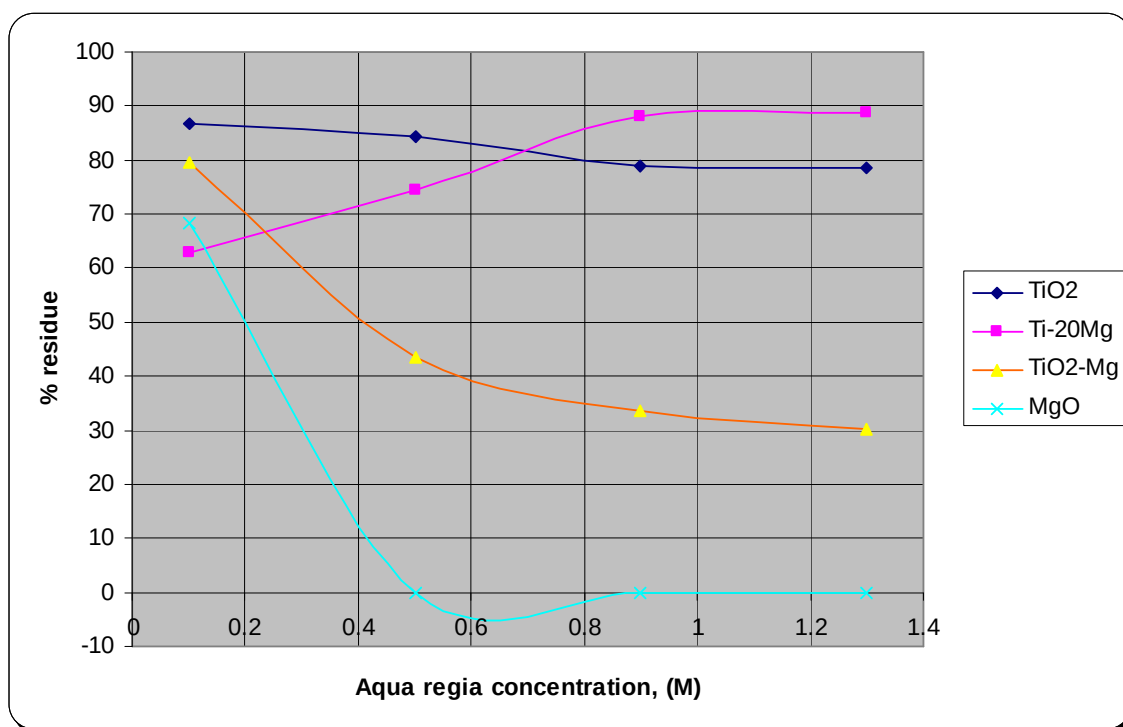


Figure 4.15: Effect of aqua regia concentration on the leaching of the individual powders.

The situation with aqua regia was the same as for H_2SO_4 ; at no point was there dissolution of MCP TiO_2 -Mg being more than the dissolution of TiO_2 . This leachant, which is strongly oxidising, has shown that it cannot be used to effect the separation

of Ti-Mg from the processed powder mixture. Aqua regia is a corrosive, fuming yellow liquid whose fumes and yellow colour are caused by reaction of HNO_3 acid with HCl acid to form nitrosyl chloride (NOCl), Cl_2 , and water. Both Cl_2 and nitrosyl chloride are yellow-colored and volatile. The nitrosyl chloride further decomposes to nitric oxide, NO , and chlorine. It is possible that some of these species formed are precursors and intermediates to those species which are favourable for hydrolysis hence the TiO_2 resistance to aqua regia dissolution. The rise in the residue amount of Ti-20Mg powder with increasing acid concentration is thus probably due to hydrolysis. Figure 4.16 shows the XRD pattern of the MCP TiO_2 -Mg powder leached in 0.9M aqua regia. The pattern confirmed what the dissolution graph showed (Figure 4.15): TiO_2 was not amenable to much dissolution in the media used, and it thus became the most dominant phase after leaching despite it being only 5.7% initially.

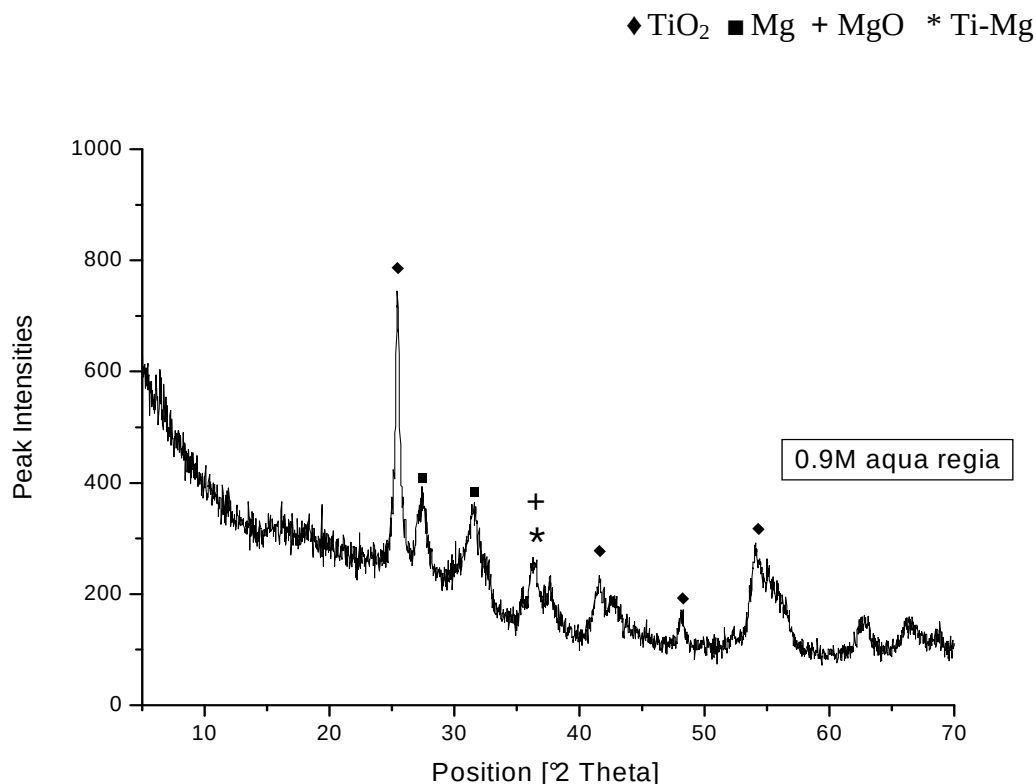


Figure 4.16: XRD pattern of milled TiO_2 -Mg residue leached in 0.9M aqua regia

4.2.5 Effect of leaching in oxalic/ascorbic acids

The variation of powders residues with acid concentration after leaching with equimolar oxalic/ascorbic acids is shown in Figure 4.17.

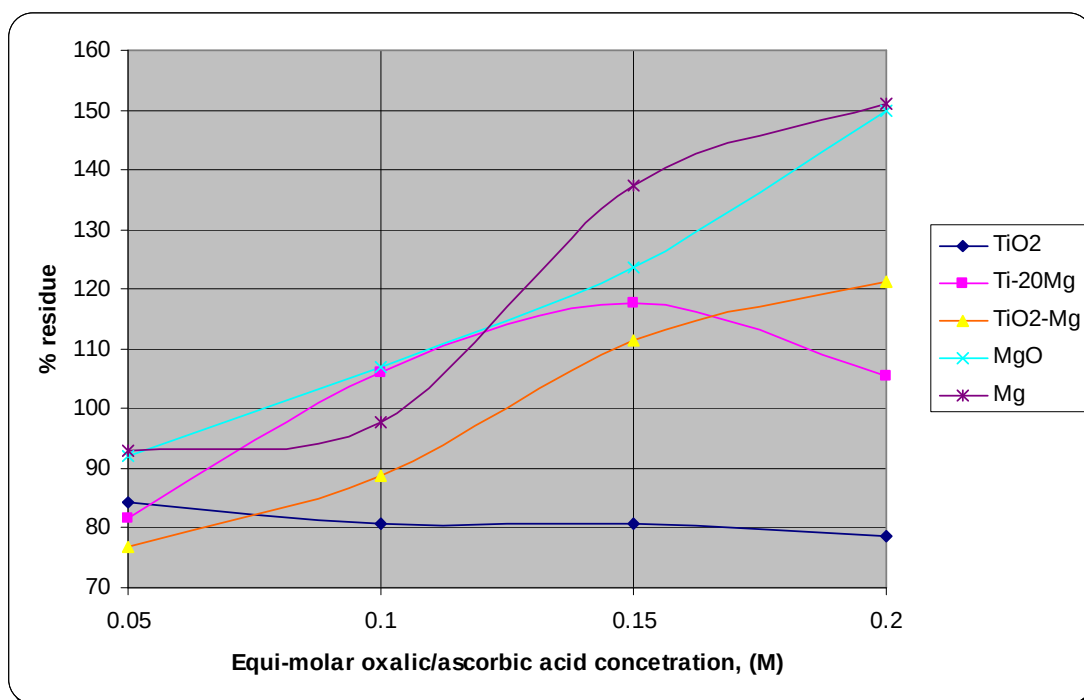


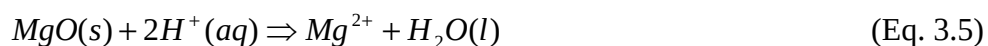
Figure 4.17: Effect of oxalic/ascorbic acid concentration on the leaching of the individual powders

Polycrystalline TiO₂ did not show much dissolution in equimolar oxalic/ascorbic acids. The least dissolved phase was MgO, with a residue of about 90% at the lowest acid concentration. There was XRD evidence showing that the MgO exposed to the equimolar oxalic/ascorbic acid reagent was probably converted to Mg(OH)₂ (Fig 4.18).

The proportion of TiO₂ dissolved was virtually constant and independent of the leach media concentration. The TiO₂ residues on the whole acid concentration range fluctuated at around 80%. On the other hand, TiO₂-Mg, Ti-20Mg and MgO dissolved

initially but gained mass with increasing acid molarity. MgO gained more mass than other powders with about 150% residue at the final acid concentration of 0.2M. TiO₂-Mg had a residue of 121% at the final acid concentration investigated while Ti-20Mg gained mass up to 117% before tapering off slightly at the end. Mechanochemically processed TiO₂-Mg, MgO and Ti-20Mg had very little dissolution at low acid strength before they started steadily gaining residue mass to values beyond 100% with increased acid concentration. These three powders have Mg in common; Mg combined with O₂ in MgO (in both crystalline MgO and milled TiO₂-Mg), and alloyed to Ti (in both MCP TiO₂-Mg, and Ti-20Mg).

Independent polycrystalline TiO₂ did not have Mg in it, and all its residues were under 100%. Thus, only the Mg bearing powder phases gained in residue masses beyond 100%. This was most likely because of the Mg²⁺ ions (from the dissolved Mg bearing phases) in the equimolar oxalic/ascorbic acid mixture were hydrolysing to Mg(OH)₂. XRD analysis of the residues (Fig 5.18) showed the presence of Mg(OH)₂; the Mg in both the oxide and the Ti alloys probably went into solution as Mg²⁺ cations before being quickly hydrolysed to Mg(OH)₂. Elemental Mg metal was also subjected to the equi-molar oxalic/ascorbic acid reagent as the other powders. The Mg residue also steadily gained in residue mass beyond 100% as the reagent concentration was increased confirming that, indeed, the gain in mass was because of the Mg ions (Eq 3.5) reacting to form Mg(OH)₂ precipitate. Indeed, XRD analysis of elemental Mg leached in 0.15M concentration (Appendix C11) showed the presence of Mg(OH)₂ phases, over and above those of undissolved Mg.





The high propensities of mass gain in these leached powders seem to indicate that the conditions were optimum for maximum hydrolysis of the Mg leached from the oxide, and from the alloy matrix. Figure 4.18 shows the XRD spectra of the mechanochemically processed $\text{TiO}_2\text{-Mg}$ powder mixture leached in 0.15M oxalic/ascorbic acids. The peaks of incompletely reduced oxides of Ti are visible although they are not the most dominant. There was presence of $\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2$ as shown by the labelled peaks. No MgO was detected in the XRD analysis; all the oxide had probably hydrolyzed to $\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2$.

○ TiO_2 ● Mg ▼ $\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2$ ◇ Ti-Mg

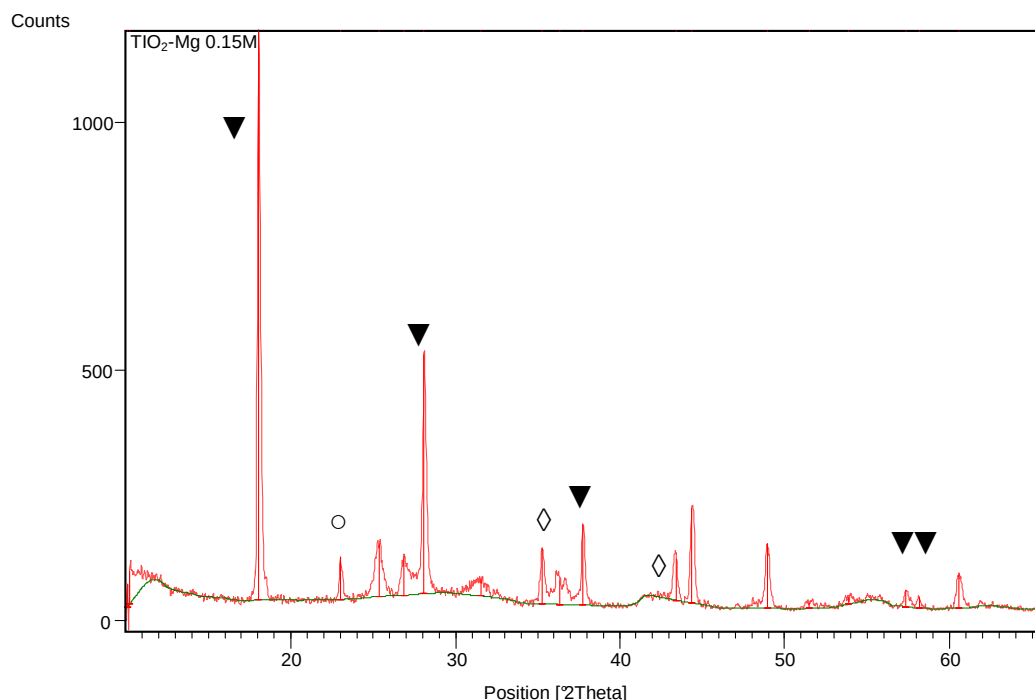


Figure 4.18: XRD spectra of milled $\text{TiO}_2\text{-Mg}$ residue leached in 0.15M ascorbic/oxalic acids

The results indicated that leaching in oxalic/ascorbic acids is impossible because the phases of interest, those that need to be leached out (MgO and TiO_2), are having the least tendency to dissolve. As a result, oxalic/ascorbic acid mixture cannot be used to effectively isolate Ti-Mg alloy from the waste powders as it leaches out the Mg in the alloy matrix, and it does not result in good dissolution of TiO_2 . Literature of TiO_2 dissolution in organics showed that a maximum dissolution of 60% in 2.5 h was obtained in equi-molar concentrations of oxalic acid and ascorbic acid (Mukherjee et al, 2005). No leach parameters were given in the literature apart from the leach duration.

4.2.5 Effect of leaching in equimolar cysteine/ascorbic acids

Milled powder samples, as well as the polycrystalline TiO_2 and MgO leached in equimolar cysteine/ascorbic acids in the range 0.025 to 0.8M are shown in Figure 4.19.

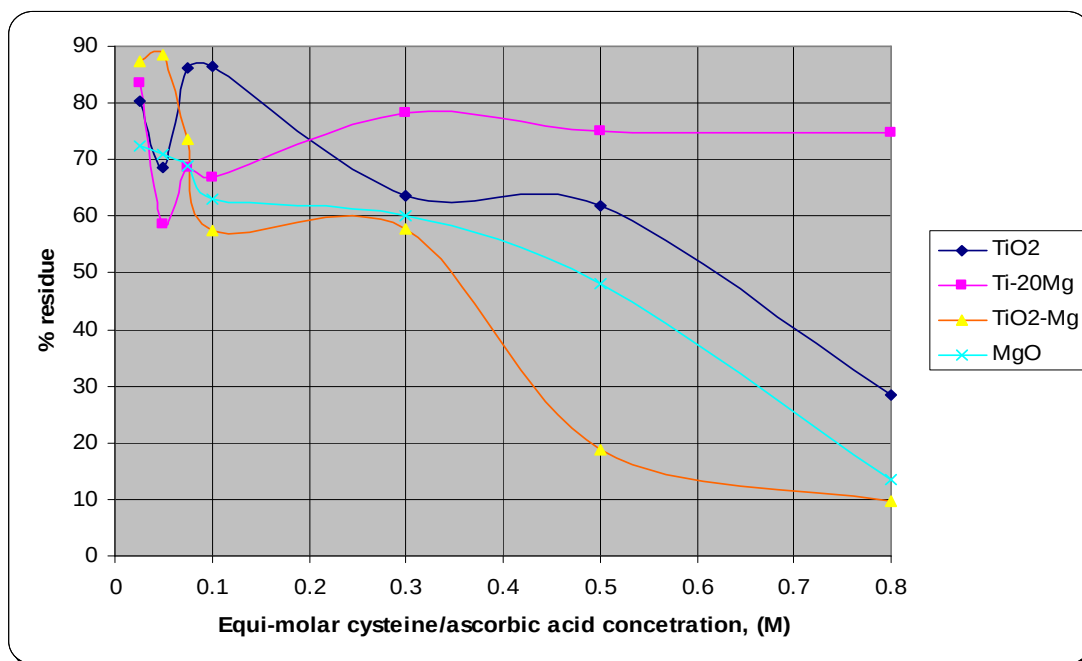


Figure 4.19: Effect of equimolar cysteine/ascorbic acids on the leaching of the individual powders

The dissolution of TiO_2 and Ti-20Mg showed a sharp increase on moving from a concentration of 0.025M to 0.05M. 32% TiO_2 and 42% Ti-20Mg dissolved at 0.05M acid. Beyond 0.05M there was a drastic increase in the masses of TiO_2 and Ti-20Mg residue retained. The TiO_2 gradually dissolved with increase in the equimolar concentration until about 29% residue was left at 0.8M. On the other hand, Ti-20Mg began to show marked resistance to dissolution beyond 0.05M with the residue proportion gradually picking up with increase in the equimolar concentration until it was about 75% at 0.8M. On the other hand, MCP TiO_2 -Mg and MgO showed gradual decrease of their residue proportions with increase in the equimolar concentration. Mechanochemically processed TiO_2 -Mg, from which 51% MgO and 6% incompletely reduced TiO_2 (total 57%) (Table 4.1) need to be leached out, was drastically dissolved until only 9% residue remained. MgO steadily dissolved until 13% MgO residue remained after leaching in 0.8M cysteine/ascorbic acids.

The powder most resistant to dissolution, TiO_2 , showed considerable dissolution with increased leach media concentration up 0.8M where 71% of it dissolved. Literature (Mukherjee et al, 2005) on dissolution of TiO_2 in organics has dissolution up to 60% percent; leach equipment and parameters were not given. Cysteine/ascorbic acid proved to be the best possible reagent for leaching out substantial proportions of TiO_2 while, at the same concentration, avoiding considerable losses of the Ti-Mg alloy due to inadvertent co-dissolution. About 76% recovery of the Ti-Mg powder was achieved by leaching with equimolar cysteine/ascorbic acids. This was, however, with contamination of 20%MgO (min.) and 4% TiO_2 (min.) at 0.8M.

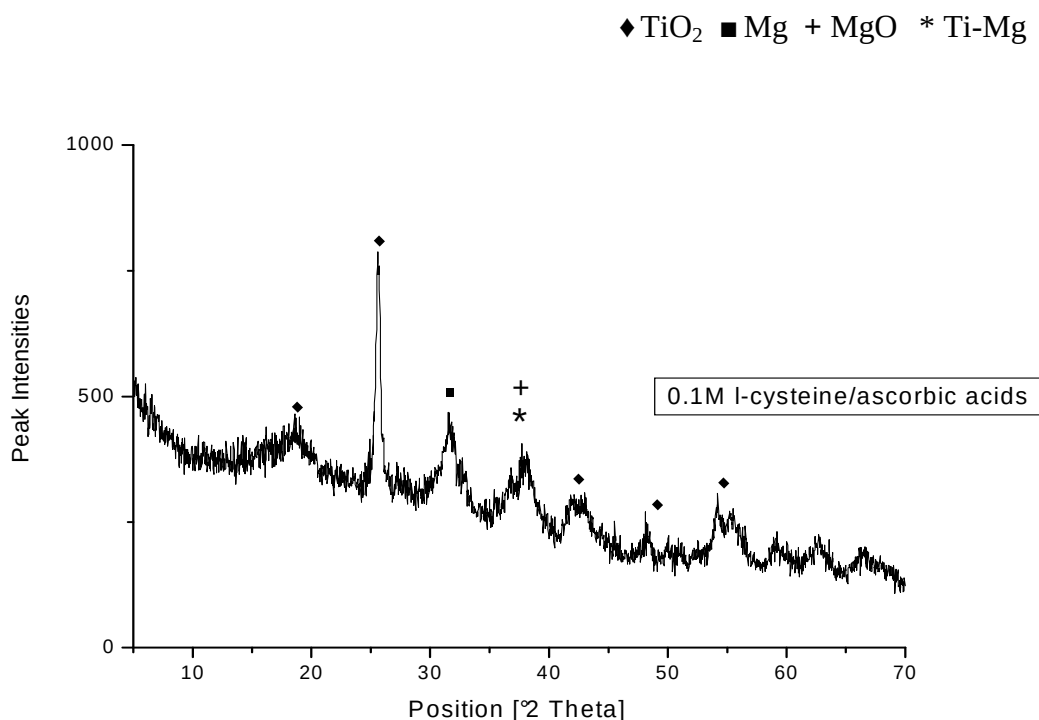


Figure 4.20: XRD pattern of milled TiO_2 -Mg residue leached in 0.1M equimolar cysteine/ascorbic acids

Equimolar cysteine/ascorbic acid showed a lot of potential in separation of Ti-Mg from the MCP TiO_2 -Mg. At lower acid concentrations, more of the MCP TiO_2 -Mg is retained at concentrations 0.025 and 0.05M than any other powder. A lot more independent TiO_2 dissolved at these same concentrations, particularly at 0.05M. It is postulated that the oxides of Ti from the milled TiO_2 -Mg mixture can be separated from the synthesized Ti-Mg alloy through leaching at 0.05M for a number of repeated leach cycles. However, an unacceptably high proportion (11%) of the milled TiO_2 -Mg will be dissolving at each leach cycle, assuming results of subsequent leach runs will be consistent with those obtained at 0.05M equimolar cysteine/ascorbic acid.

Inevitably, a considerable proportion of the value Ti-Mg alloy will end up being leached out along with the other waste powders during subsequent leach cycles. This is corroborated by the leaching curve of independent Ti-20Mg (from blended elemental powders) which showed that 42% of the powder dissolved at 0.05M concentration. Not much MgO (29% at 0.05M) was dissolved despite the fact that it is a relatively easy oxide to dissolve. Thus MgO will be retained in each leach cycle and, at the end, an unacceptably high proportion will be retained in the final Ti-Mg alloy.

To counter the unacceptable loss of MCP $\text{TiO}_2\text{-Mg}$ (11%) during each postulated cyclic leaching run, the duration of leaching was decreased to 1 hour for all powder samples. It was expected that all the curves in Figure 4.19 between 0.025M and 0.05M (where $\text{TiO}_2\text{-Mg}$ residue was more than those of other powders) would generally shift upwards at reduced leach duration so that as much MCP $\text{TiO}_2\text{-Mg}$ residue as possible would be initially retained. Cyclic leaching would then be performed on these powders leached at low duration (where more milled $\text{TiO}_2\text{-Mg}$ residue is expected to be retained). It is envisaged that this would limit the dissolution of the processed $\text{TiO}_2\text{-Mg}$ (and hence Ti-Mg alloy powder therein) on subsequent cyclic leach runs while leaching more of the waste powders with each pass.

Table 4.2 shows the results of leaching in 0.05M equi-molar cysteine/ascorbic acids at different durations. Initially, the powders were leached for 2.5 hours and the results indicated potential for separation. Thus, the powders were then leached for a less duration to maximise on that potential.

Table 4.2 Leaching in 0.05M cysteine/ascorbic acids at 2 different durations

Powder	% residue at 2.5hrs	% residue at 1hr	% difference
TiO ₂	68.3	81.9	13.6
Ti-20Mg	58.3	70.1	11.8
TiO ₂ -Mg	87.1	66.5	-20.57
MgO	70.8	77.5	6.7

Table 4.2 shows that the residues of TiO₂, Ti-20Mg and MgO increased when the leaching duration was decreased to 1 hour. TiO₂ had the largest residue weight gain of 14%, with MgO with the least weight gain of about 7%. On the contrary, TiO₂-Mg residue decreased to 67% down from 87% on moving to the lower duration. The potential for separation by cyclic leaching was lost on moving to the lower leach duration as even more of the MCP TiO₂-Mg powder mixture went on to be dissolved, contrary to expectations.

4.2.6 Leaching in combined HCl and equimolar cysteine/ascorbic acids

HCl and equi-molar cysteine/ascorbic acids showed potential of Ti-Mg isolation at 0.1M concentration (Figures 4.12 and 4.19). This means that, at this concentration, both leach reagents show desirable tendencies of dissolving, to a larger extent, the undesirable waste products while the TiO₂-Mg remains largely unaffected. It was decided to try and combine these desirable tendencies in one reagent by mixing HCl and equi-molar cysteine/ascorbic acids on a 50/50 mol.% basis.

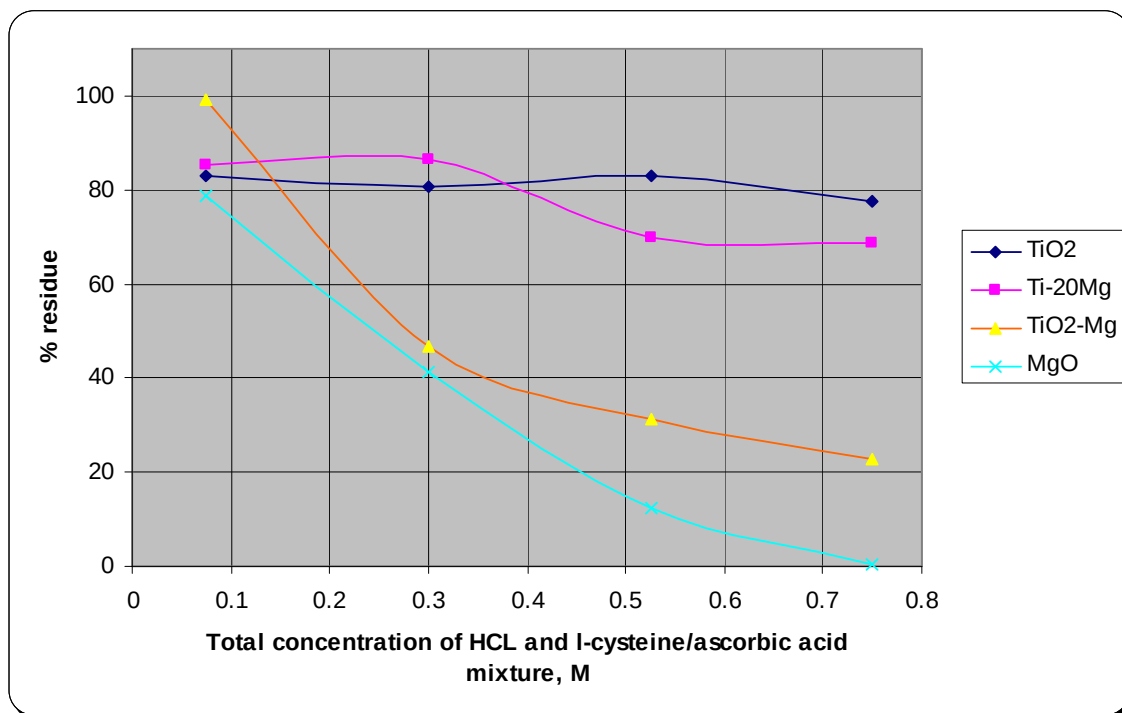


Figure 4.21 Graph of combined HCL and equi-molar cysteine/ascorbic acids

Figure 4.21 shows the variation of powder residue with concentration of combined HCL and equi-molar cysteine/ascorbic acids. The leaching behaviour of MgO and TiO₂-Mg powders samples showed substantial decreases in their respective leach residues with increased leach media concentration. The extent of dissolution of MgO increased until all the sample was dissolved at combined acid concentration of 0.75M. With MCP TiO₂-Mg powder mixture, the dissolution curve gradually tapered off until there was about 23% residue left at 0.75M acid.

TiO₂ and Ti-20Mg powders did not show much dissolution at the acids concentrations investigated. TiO₂ residue amount fluctuated at 80%. For Ti-20Mg, the residue slightly increased from 85% at lower acid concentration to about 87% at 0.3M before slightly reducing to 69% at the final acid concentration.

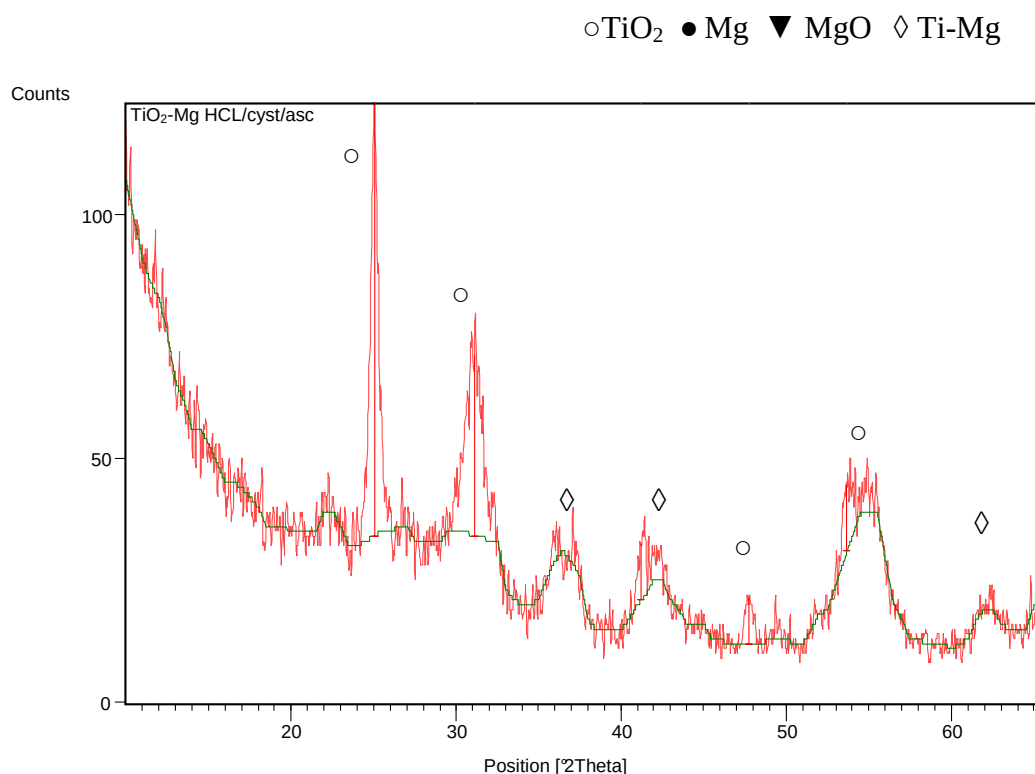


Figure 4.22: XRD spectra of milled TiO₂-Mg residue leached in combined HCl and equi-molar cysteine/ascorbic acids

Figure 4.22 shows the XRD spectra of MCP TiO₂-Mg powder leached in combined HCl and equimolar cysteine/ascorbic acids. The TiO₂ peaks are strong in the pattern; it showed that the oxide did not dissolve much despite it having the least theoretical proportion in the milled TiO₂-Mg (5.7%, Table 4.1). Other peaks of MgO and Ti-Mg, prominent before leaching, were now greatly reduced in intensity and all became lower than those of TiO₂. More of Ti-Mg and MgO in the milled TiO₂-Mg mixture dissolved ahead of the oxides of Ti. The desirable tendencies from both individual leach reagents appear to have been lost when they were combined into one reagent. The combined HCl and equi-molar cysteine/ascorbic acids simply became more aggressive; and dissolved a great deal of the MgO as well as the MCP synthesised Ti-Mg in the milled TiO₂-Mg mixture (Figure 4.21). Only 23% of TiO₂-Mg remained as

residue yet theoretical calculations indicate that there is 40.7% Ti-Mg alloy. Thus it is not possible to isolate Ti-Mg alloy using combined HCl and equi-molar cysteine/ascorbic acids as the leach reagent.

4.3 Summary of discussion

Chapter 4 described and discussed the results of hydrometallurgical recovery of MCP synthesized Ti-Mg alloy powder from the intrinsically mixed by-product powders. It was the objective of this research to dissolve out these by-products in different organic and inorganic acids to remain with a clean Ti-Mg alloy powder residue.

Inorganic acids (HCl, H₂SO₄ and aqua regia) were not able to effect recovery of the synthesized Ti-Mg alloy. Incompletely reduced TiO₂, from the CSIR copyrighted MCP process, was largely resistant to dissolution in the inorganic acids. For the same conditions, the other powders (Ti-20Mg, MgO and TiO₂-Mg) were dissolving to a great extent effectively meaning the synthesized Ti-Mg was also being lost due to co-dissolution.

Two acid combinations were used for recovery of synthesized Ti-Mg alloy powder in organic acids, namely equi-molar oxalic/ascorbic acids and equi-molar cysteine/ascorbic acids. The oxalic/ascorbic acid combination was found ineffective in Ti-Mg alloy powder recovery. TiO₂ powder was very resistant to dissolution across all the concentration ranges. The other powders namely MgO, Ti-20Mg and TiO₂-Mg (Mg was common to all of them), all gained in mass with increased concentration. This was because of hydrolysis of the Mg component to Mg(OH)₂.

There was some degree of success in dissolving of TiO_2 in cysteine/ascorbic acids combination. Most of the TiO_2 was dissolved at higher concentrations. However, milled TiO_2 -Mg was drastically dissolved for the same leach parameters while MgO, which dissolved with ease in inorganic acids, was not completely dissolved even at higher concentrations. This in point of fact meant that the cysteine/ascorbic acids combination was not able to effect recovery of the synthesized Ti-Mg alloy powder as there was high co-dissolution of the alloy powder as well as contamination from the incompletely dissolved MgO and TiO_2 .

CHAPTER 5

5.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1 Conclusions

It was noted that the high cost of Ti metal is due to the current Kroll Process for refining titanium ore which is a labour intensive, multi-step, high temperature batch process with low productivity. Literature also illustrated that there is need for lighter titanium alloys for instance in biomedical applications, and in aerospace applications. Consequently, and for this particular research work, mechanochemical processing (MCP) of TiO_2 with 15wt.% excess Mg was done to produce a Ti-Mg alloy (which is lighter than Ti metal), and should be relatively cheaper since Ti bearing precursor (rutile) is not from the expensive Kroll process. The MCP technique, however, resulted in the production of a Ti-Mg alloy powder which was intimately mixed with other powders like MgO, unreacted TiO_2 and minute amounts of unreacted Mg. The thrust of this project was to hydrometallurgically recover the Ti-Mg alloy powder through the selective dissolution of the waste and/or unreacted powders from the MCP process.

Sulphuric acid, hydrochloric acid, equimolar ascorbic acid/oxalic acids, equimolar l-cysteine/ascorbic acids were used in the dissolution work. The dissolution periods were fixed while the concentrations of the different leach media were manipulated to create conditions favourable for the dissolution of the by products of the MCP process, and the preservation of the Ti-Mg alloy powder.

5.1.1 Dilute inorganic acids

Dilute inorganic acid dissolution of waste by-products of the MCP process to recover a clean Ti-Mg alloy proved unsuccessful since TiO_2 was resistant to dissolution while Ti-20Mg and TiO_2 -Mg were virtually dissolved out. The dilute acids used were H_2SO_4 , HCl and aqua regia.

In the concentration ranges used, (0.1 – 1.3M across all three dissolution media), unreacted TiO_2 waste powder did not dissolve out to a larger extent as envisaged in the research postulation. Thus 16 – 36% TiO_2 dissolved in HCl, 20 – 39% in H_2SO_4 , and 13 – 21% in aqua regia. This means that under the same conditions, and on the milled TiO_2 -Mg powder, at least 61% of the unreacted TiO_2 remain undissolved in all the three leach reagents. However, the other waste powder (MgO), showed ease of dissolution as it was completely leached out in all three reagents at medium to higher concentrations.

For the Ti-20Mg alloy synthesized from blended elemental (BE) powders, the dissolution percentage ranges were 10 – 69% in HCl, 20 – 88% in H_2SO_4 , and 11 – 31% in aqua regia. The control alloy powder was dissolving rather drastically where TiO_2 showed marked dissolution resistance. MCP processed TiO_2 -Mg (which contains MgO (53.6 %), unreduced TiO_2 (5.7 %) and Ti-Mg alloy (40.7 %): Appendix A2) had heavy dissolution percentages in all the dilute inorganic acids considered. These were 3 – 78% in HCl, 53 – 83% in H_2SO_4 , and 20 – 70% in aqua regia. As the theoretical proportion of Ti-Mg alloy in milled TiO_2 -Mg was calculated to be 40.7%, this effectively meant the alloy also dissolved substantially. This is supported by the drastic dissolution of the control Ti-20Mg from mechanically alloyed BE powders.

5.1.2 Concentrated sulphuric acid with enhancers

Concentrated H_2SO_4 separately mixed with two dissolution enhancing reagents, namely 0.1M HF and 0.06M $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$ was used for dissolution of the powders in the range 3M – 6M.

TiO_2 showed marked dissolution resistance in both reagents. For H_2SO_4 (with $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$), 35 – 38% was dissolved; while for H_2SO_4 (with HF), 37 – 39% was dissolved in the concentration range considered. This followed that the final product from MCP processed and leached TiO_2 -Mg had a lot of contamination from the undissolved TiO_2 . On the contrary, both Ti-20Mg alloy and MCP processed TiO_2 -Mg showed severe dissolution in both reagents (59 – 100% Ti – 20Mg in H_2SO_4 with HF, 59 – 97% TiO_2 -Mg in H_2SO_4 with HF; 60 – 84% Ti – 20Mg in H_2SO_4 with $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$, 53 – 64% TiO_2 – Mg in H_2SO_4 with $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$). As the proportion of Ti-Mg alloy in milled TiO_2 -Mg is 40.7%, severe dissolutions of this level meant that it was the alloy to be preserved and recovered which dissolved rather than the TiO_2 . MgO was completely dissolved in all the concentration ranges across both reagents. Thus the overall scenario with concentrated H_2SO_4 with dissolution enhancers was that the leached product will be contaminated with TiO_2 unreduced during the MCP process, and that there will be unacceptable losses of the value Ti-Mg alloy powder through its inadvertent co-dissolution. Concentrated H_2SO_4 with dissolution enhancers cannot, therefore, be used to efficiently and successfully recover Ti-Mg alloy powder from the waste products of the MCP process.

5.1.3 Equimolar organic acids

Equimolar cysteine/ascorbic acids, and equimolar oxalic/ascorbic acids were the two organic acid combinations used in the Ti-Mg powder recovery leach experiments. MgO is generally easy to dissolve relative to other oxides in other reagents. However, equimolar cysteine/ascorbic acid could not leach it all out; only 27 – 87% MgO was dissolved in the concentration range investigated. With equimolar oxalic/ascorbic acids, MgO residue proportion actually increased with increased concentration due to hydrolysis to the hydroxide. Consequently, Ti-Mg product from either of these leach reagents will be expected to be heavily contaminated with the oxides/hydroxides of magnesium.

Another waste powder, unreduced TiO_2 , was not totally leached out in either leach media. There was some degree of success on leaching the TiO_2 (71% leached out) in cysteine/ascorbic acids but 90% of TiO_2 -Mg was also dissolved at the same parameter. This TiO_2 -Mg contained 40.7% Ti-Mg alloy (Appendix A2), so this effectively meant Ti-Mg alloy powder also co-dissolved to a larger extent. This was also supported by the independent Ti-20Mg from alloyed BE powders which showed a large dissolution of 16 – 41% under the same organic acid concentration range.

Equimolar organic acids, therefore, can not effectively be used to separate MCP synthesized Ti-Mg alloy from the waste products. The alloy will inevitably be contaminated to a great extent, and a substantial amount will be lost through unintended co-dissolution.

5.1.4 Combined inorganic/organic acids

HCl freshly mixed with equimolar cysteine/ascorbic acids on a 50% basis was used for the MCP synthesized Ti-Mg hydrometallurgical separation, in a concentration range 0.075 – 0.75M. HCl and equimolar cysteine/ascorbic acids had individually shown some potential for Ti-Mg alloy powder recovery from waste powders.

TiO₂ was not dissolved to a big extent as only 17 – 22% was leached out in the concentration range investigated. MgO showed little ease of dissolution at low concentrations with only 21 – 59% dissolved, which eventually got to 100% dissolution at 0.75M. In the same concentration range, the control Ti-Mg alloy powder did not show much dissolution (15 – 31%), while TiO₂-Mg inadvertently dissolved to a large extent (1 – 77%).

5.2 Summary of conclusions

From the study carried out on recovery of MCP synthesized Ti-Mg alloy powder using organic and inorganic acids it was concluded that:

- Recovery of the alloy with inorganic acids (HCl and H₂SO₄, and aqua regia) was not possible since as high as 80% of the milled Ti-Mg alloy powder was co-dissolved, yet TiO₂ was still undissolved for the same conditions.
- Recovery of Ti-Mg powder was also not achieved by leaching with organic acids; the species MgO showed marked resistance to dissolution and hence would contaminate the alloy powder.
- Isolation of the Ti-Mg alloy powder using combined HCl/organic acids was not effective; TiO₂ resisted dissolution while there was drastic co-dissolution of MCP TiO₂-Mg (and hence the alloy therein).

- Ti-Mg alloy powder was not recovered using concentrated H_2SO_4 with dissolution enhancers. The leached product was contaminated with TiO_2 unreduced during the MCP process. There was also unacceptable loss of the value Ti-Mg alloy powder through its inadvertent co-dissolution.

5.3 Recommendations

- It is recommended to optimise the MCP process to generate a powder with the least amount of insufficiently reduced TiO_2 .
- It is recommended to investigate on cyclic leaching with different leach reagents. Different reagents attack the powders differently, some more (or less) drastically than others. It could be possible to select a variety of leach reagent combinations and durations which will leave the pure Ti-Mg alloy while maximizing dissolution of the waste powders.
- Sequential dissolution of the waste powders in different leach media is recommended. Some leach media like inorganic acids (H_2SO_4 , HCl and aqua regia) were good at dissolving out MgO , while others like cysteine/ascorbic acids were effective in dissolving TiO_2 to a great extent (71%). Combining the potentially effective reagents to form one reagent did not work as evidenced by the results from HCl mixed with equimolar cysteine/ascorbic acids on a 50% basis. Thus, sequential dissolution using the more promising reagents is envisaged to incrementally remove all the waste powders while preserving the value Ti-Mg alloy powder.
- The development of a hydrometallurgical cleaning process for MCP synthesized Ti-Mg is still evolutionary; with equimolar cysteine/ascorbic acid tests being a pointer towards a direction in which to start looking further. It is

thus recommended to generate speciation behaviour data for both Ti and Mg in future proposed media of leaching; where both residue and solution analysis is conducted to close the mass balance of various species.

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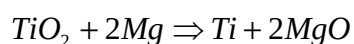
APPENDICES

Appendix A1: Milled sample calculations

Relative Molecular Masses (RMM)

Substance	RMM
Ti	47.9
Mg	24.3
TiO ₂	79.9
MgO	40.3

Stoichiometric reaction of TiO₂ with Mg:



$$(79.9g) + (48.61g) = (80.6g) + (47.9g)$$

Thus for stoichiometric quantities, 47.9g Ti is synthesized (assuming 100% conversion)

To this amount of Ti 15wt.% Mg (excess) was added:

$$(15/100) \times 47.9 = 7.19g$$

Total Mg to be added = stoichiometric amount + excess amount

$$= 48.61g + 7.19g$$

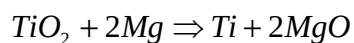
$$= 55.8g$$

Therefore total amount of powder blend milled = mass of TiO₂ + total Mg

$$= 79.9 + 55.8$$

$$= \underline{\underline{135.7g}}$$

Appendix A2: Calculation of proportion of Ti-Mg synthesized



$$(79.9g) + (48.61g) = (80.6g) + (47.9g)$$

From Equation 5.1 (Lai et al, 2002) TiO_2 conversion was 90.4%

Mass of TiO_2 in the milled blend = 79.9g

Mass of TiO_2 converted = $(90.4/100) \times 79.9$

$$= 72.2\text{g}$$

Mass of unreacted TiO_2 = $79.9 - 72.2$

$$= 7.7\text{g}$$

Masses of products formed

$$\text{MgO} = (72.2/79.9) \times 80.6$$

$$= 72.9\text{g}$$

$$\text{Ti} = (72.2/79.9) \times 47.9$$

$$= 43.3\text{g}$$

Amount of Mg that reacted to form MgO

$$= ((72.9/79.9) \times 48.6$$

$$= 44.3\text{g}$$

Amount of free Mg = $55.8 - 44.3$

$$= 11.5\text{g}$$

This free Mg is assumed to all go into solution in Ti

Thus mass of Ti-Mg alloy formed

$$= 43.3 + 11.5$$

$$= 54.8\text{g}$$

Therefore mass of MgO formed

$$= (44.3/48.61) \times 80.6$$

$$= 73.5\text{g}$$

Therefore phases in the milled product, and their % proportions

Product	Mass (g)	Proportion (%)
TiO ₂ (unreacted)	7.7	5.7
MgO	73.5	53.6
Ti-Mg	54.8	40.7

Appendix B1: Raw PSA Data for unmilled TiO₂- Mg powders

Table B1: PSA results for unmilled TiO₂-Mg powder mixture

Size (μm)	Vol Under %	Size (μm)	Vol Under %	Size (μm)	Vol Under %	Size (μm)	Vol Under %	Size (μm)	Vol Under %	Size (μm)	Vol Under %
0.010	0.00	0.080	0.00	0.634	8.07	5.053	19.67	40.244	53.79	320.535	100.00
0.011	0.00	0.090	0.00	0.717	9.42	5.709	20.06	45.469	59.71	362.148	100.00
0.013	0.00	0.102	0.00	0.810	10.76	6.450	20.50	51.371	65.87	409.163	100.00
0.014	0.00	0.115	0.00	0.915	12.04	7.287	21.00	58.041	72.05	462.281	100.00
0.016	0.00	0.130	0.00	1.034	13.24	8.233	21.56	65.575	78.01	522.296	100.00
0.018	0.00	0.147	0.00	1.168	14.31	9.302	22.20	74.089	83.52	590.102	100.00
0.021	0.00	0.166	0.00	1.320	15.26	10.510	22.94	83.707	88.38	666.711	100.00
0.024	0.00	0.187	0.03	1.491	16.05	11.874	23.81	94.574	92.45	753.265	100.00
0.027	0.00	0.211	0.16	1.684	16.71	13.416	24.85	106.852	95.64	851.056	100.00
0.030	0.00	0.239	0.46	1.903	17.24	15.157	26.14	120.724	97.95	961.542	100.00
0.034	0.00	0.270	0.89	2.150	17.66	17.125	27.74	136.397	99.43	1086.372	100.00
0.038	0.00	0.305	1.50	2.429	18.00	19.348	29.75	154.104	100.00	1227.408	100.00
0.043	0.00	0.345	2.27	2.745	18.28	21.860	32.24	174.110	100.00	1386.753	100.00
0.049	0.00	0.389	3.20	3.101	18.53	24.698	35.30	196.714	100.00	1566.785	100.00
0.055	0.00	0.440	4.27	3.503	18.77	27.904	38.99	222.251	100.00	1770.189	100.00
0.062	0.00	0.497	5.45	3.958	19.04	31.527	43.32	251.105	100.00	2000.000	100.00
0.070	0.00	0.561	6.73	4.472	19.33	35.620	48.28	283.704	100.00		

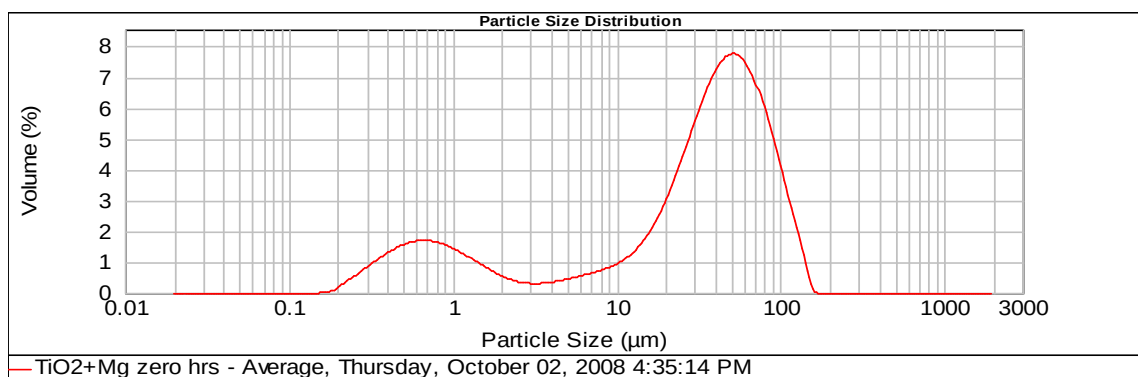


Figure B1: Graph of Volume (%) vs Particle Size (microns) for unmilled powder

Appendix B2: Raw PSA Data for TiO₂- Mg powder milled for 2 hours

Table B2: PSA results for TiO₂- Mg powder milled for 2 hours

Size (μm)	Vol Under %	Size (μm)	Vol Under %	Size (μm)	Vol Under %	Size (μm)	Vol Under %	Size (μm)	Vol Under %	Size (μm)	Vol Under %
0.010	0.00	0.080	0.00	0.634	0.00	5.053	2.00	40.244	50.49	320.535	99.93
0.011	0.00	0.090	0.00	0.717	0.00	5.709	2.34	45.469	58.75	362.148	99.99
0.013	0.00	0.102	0.00	0.810	0.00	6.450	2.68	51.371	66.81	409.163	100.00
0.014	0.00	0.115	0.00	0.915	0.00	7.287	3.02	58.041	74.31	462.281	100.00
0.016	0.00	0.130	0.00	1.034	0.00	8.233	3.38	65.575	80.98	522.296	100.00
0.018	0.00	0.147	0.00	1.168	0.00	9.302	3.78	74.089	86.62	590.102	100.00
0.021	0.00	0.166	0.00	1.320	0.01	10.510	4.31	83.707	91.11	666.711	100.00
0.024	0.00	0.187	0.00	1.491	0.05	11.874	5.04	94.574	94.48	753.265	100.00
0.027	0.00	0.211	0.00	1.684	0.12	13.416	6.12	106.852	96.83	851.056	100.00
0.030	0.00	0.239	0.00	1.903	0.20	15.157	7.68	120.724	98.26	961.542	100.00
0.034	0.00	0.270	0.00	2.150	0.31	17.125	9.89	136.397	98.97	1086.372	100.00
0.038	0.00	0.305	0.00	2.429	0.45	19.348	12.91	154.104	99.24	1227.408	100.00
0.043	0.00	0.345	0.00	2.745	0.62	21.860	16.87	174.110	99.38	1386.753	100.00
0.049	0.00	0.389	0.00	3.101	0.83	24.698	21.84	196.714	99.45	1566.785	100.00
0.055	0.00	0.440	0.00	3.503	1.08	27.904	27.83	222.251	99.54	1770.189	100.00
0.062	0.00	0.497	0.00	3.958	1.36	31.527	34.73	251.105	99.65	2000.000	100.00
0.070	0.00	0.561	0.00	4.472	1.67	35.620	42.38	283.704	99.80		

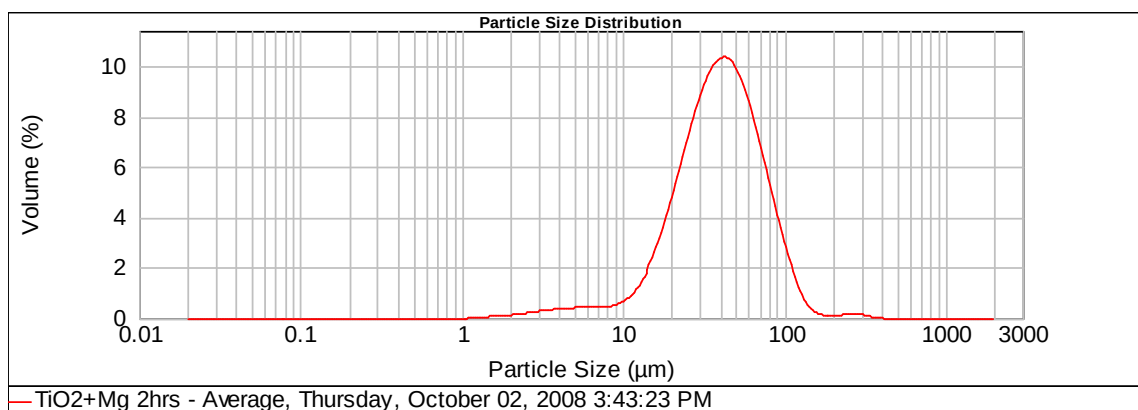


Figure B2: Volume (%) vs Particle Size (microns), milling duration 2 hours

Appendix B3: Raw PSA Data for TiO₂- Mg powder milled for 4 hours

Table B3: PSA results for TiO₂- Mg powder milled for 4 hours

Size (μm)	Vol Under %	Size (μm)	Vol Under %	Size (μm)	Vol Under %	Size (μm)	Vol Under %	Size (μm)	Vol Under %	Size (μm)	Vol Under %
0.010	0.00	0.080	0.00	0.634	1.23	5.053	22.98	40.244	87.15	320.535	99.81
0.011	0.00	0.090	0.00	0.717	1.52	5.709	25.69	45.469	89.47	362.148	99.91
0.013	0.00	0.102	0.00	0.810	1.88	6.450	28.65	51.371	91.50	409.163	99.98
0.014	0.00	0.115	0.00	0.915	2.34	7.287	31.88	58.041	93.27	462.281	100.00
0.016	0.00	0.130	0.00	1.034	2.90	8.233	35.39	65.575	94.80	522.296	100.00
0.018	0.00	0.147	0.00	1.168	3.58	9.302	39.20	74.089	96.10	590.102	100.00
0.021	0.00	0.166	0.00	1.320	4.39	10.510	43.29	83.707	97.17	666.711	100.00
0.024	0.00	0.187	0.00	1.491	5.34	11.874	47.63	94.574	98.00	753.265	100.00
0.027	0.00	0.211	0.04	1.684	6.43	13.416	52.16	106.852	98.60	851.056	100.00
0.030	0.00	0.239	0.12	1.903	7.66	15.157	56.78	120.724	98.97	961.542	100.00
0.034	0.00	0.270	0.21	2.150	9.04	17.125	61.42	136.397	99.15	1086.372	100.00
0.038	0.00	0.305	0.30	2.429	10.57	19.348	65.96	154.104	99.22	1227.408	100.00
0.043	0.00	0.345	0.41	2.745	12.24	21.860	70.31	174.110	99.28	1386.753	100.00
0.049	0.00	0.389	0.52	3.101	14.06	24.698	74.39	196.714	99.35	1566.785	100.00
0.055	0.00	0.440	0.65	3.503	16.04	27.904	78.13	222.251	99.45	1770.189	100.00
0.062	0.00	0.497	0.81	3.958	18.17	31.527	81.50	251.105	99.56	2000.000	100.00
0.070	0.00	0.561	1.00	4.472	20.48	35.620	84.50	283.704	99.69		

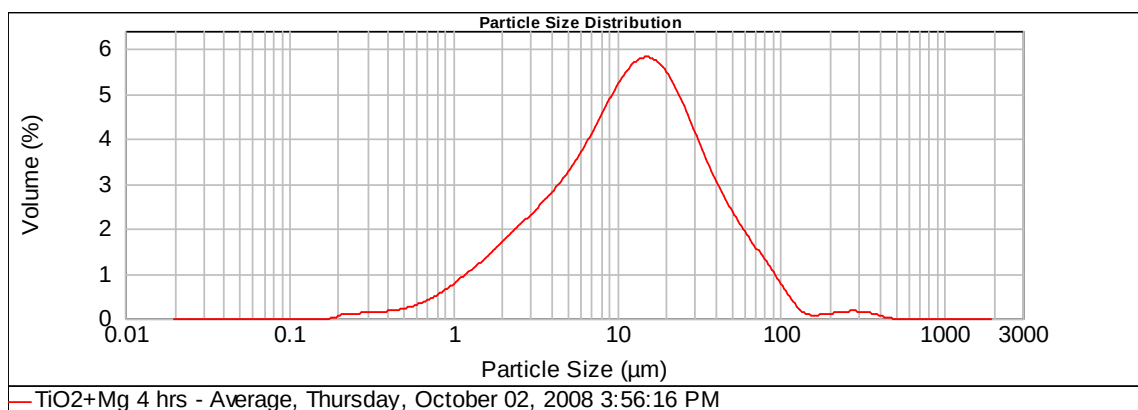


Figure B3: Volume (%) vs Particle Size (microns), milling duration 4 hours

Appendix B4: Raw PSA Data for TiO₂- Mg powder milled for 8 hours

Table B4: PSA results for TiO₂- Mg powder milled for 8 hours

Size (μm)	Vol Under %	Size (μm)	Vol Under %	Size (μm)	Vol Under %	Size (μm)	Vol Under %	Size (μm)	Vol Under %	Size (μm)	Vol Under %
0.010	0.00	0.080	0.00	0.634	0.99	5.053	20.28	40.244	81.99	320.535	94.85
0.011	0.00	0.090	0.00	0.717	1.18	5.709	23.54	45.469	84.06	362.148	95.20
0.013	0.00	0.102	0.00	0.810	1.42	6.450	27.17	51.371	86.01	409.163	95.76
0.014	0.00	0.115	0.00	0.915	1.73	7.287	31.13	58.041	87.84	462.281	96.59
0.016	0.00	0.130	0.00	1.034	2.10	8.233	35.39	65.575	89.51	522.296	97.63
0.018	0.00	0.147	0.00	1.168	2.56	9.302	39.86	74.089	90.99	590.102	98.78
0.021	0.00	0.166	0.00	1.320	3.11	10.510	44.46	83.707	92.25	666.711	99.87
0.024	0.00	0.187	0.00	1.491	3.77	11.874	49.07	94.574	93.24	753.265	100.00
0.027	0.00	0.211	0.04	1.684	4.54	13.416	53.59	106.852	93.96	851.056	100.00
0.030	0.00	0.239	0.11	1.903	5.44	15.157	57.92	120.724	94.41	961.542	100.00
0.034	0.00	0.270	0.20	2.150	6.49	17.125	61.98	136.397	94.58	1086.372	100.00
0.038	0.00	0.305	0.29	2.429	7.70	19.348	65.71	154.104	94.59	1227.408	100.00
0.043	0.00	0.345	0.38	2.745	9.12	21.860	69.10	174.110	94.59	1386.753	100.00
0.049	0.00	0.389	0.48	3.101	10.76	24.698	72.17	196.714	94.59	1566.785	100.00
0.055	0.00	0.440	0.58	3.503	12.66	27.904	74.94	222.251	94.59	1770.189	100.00
0.062	0.00	0.497	0.70	3.958	14.86	31.527	77.47	251.105	94.60	2000.000	100.00
0.070	0.00	0.561	0.83	4.472	17.39	35.620	79.80	283.704	94.67		

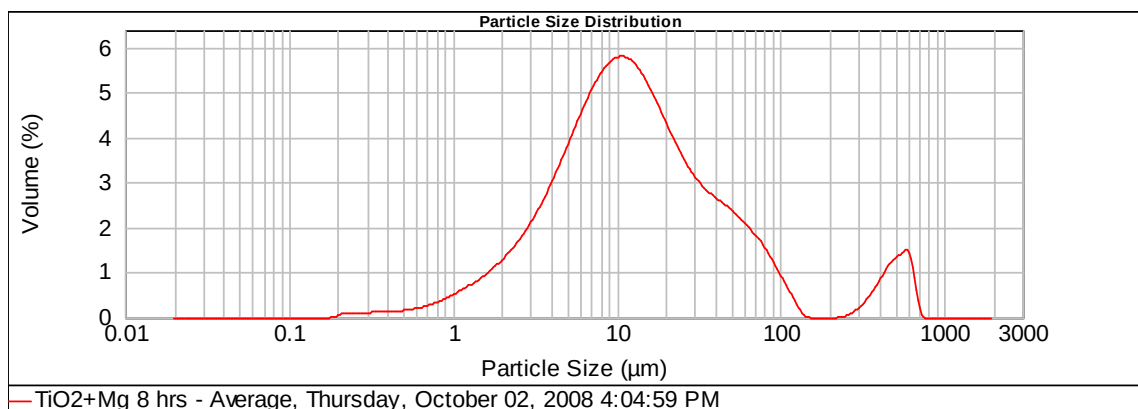
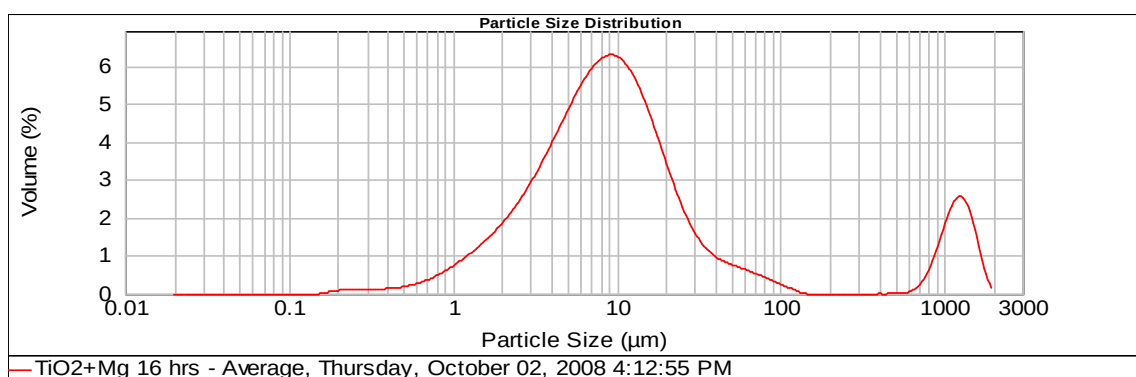


Figure B4: Volume (%) vs Particle Size (microns), milling duration 8 hours

Appendix B5: Raw PSA Data for TiO₂- Mg powder milled for 16 hours

Table B5: PSA results for TiO₂- Mg powder milled for 16 hours

Size (μm)	Vol Under %	Size (μm)	Vol Under %	Size (μm)	Vol Under %	Size (μm)	Vol Under %	Size (μm)	Vol Under %	Size (μm)	Vol Under %
0.010	0.00	0.080	0.00	0.634	1.13	5.053	27.69	40.244	86.20	320.535	90.05
0.011	0.00	0.090	0.00	0.717	1.39	5.709	31.75	45.469	86.92	362.148	90.05
0.013	0.00	0.102	0.00	0.810	1.73	6.450	36.15	51.371	87.56	409.163	90.05
0.014	0.00	0.115	0.00	0.915	2.16	7.287	40.83	58.041	88.13	462.281	90.05
0.016	0.00	0.130	0.00	1.034	2.70	8.233	45.73	65.575	88.64	522.296	90.05
0.018	0.00	0.147	0.00	1.168	3.36	9.302	50.75	74.089	89.08	590.102	90.06
0.021	0.00	0.166	0.00	1.320	4.16	10.510	55.75	83.707	89.44	666.711	90.12
0.024	0.00	0.187	0.04	1.491	5.12	11.874	60.63	94.574	89.71	753.265	90.31
0.027	0.00	0.211	0.11	1.684	6.25	13.416	65.23	106.852	89.89	851.056	90.79
0.030	0.00	0.239	0.18	1.903	7.56	15.157	69.46	120.724	90.01	961.542	91.73
0.034	0.00	0.270	0.27	2.150	9.08	17.125	73.20	136.397	90.05	1086.372	93.25
0.038	0.00	0.305	0.35	2.429	10.83	19.348	76.42	154.104	90.05	1227.408	95.21
0.043	0.00	0.345	0.45	2.745	12.83	21.860	79.10	174.110	90.05	1386.753	97.24
0.049	0.00	0.389	0.54	3.101	15.12	24.698	81.26	196.714	90.05	1566.785	98.87
0.055	0.00	0.440	0.65	3.503	17.73	27.904	82.96	222.251	90.05	1770.189	99.76
0.062	0.00	0.497	0.77	3.958	20.69	31.527	84.29	251.105	90.05	2000.000	100.00
0.070	0.00	0.561	0.93	4.472	24.00	35.620	85.34	283.704	90.05		



FigureB5: Volume (%) vs Particle Size (microns), milling duration 16 hours

Appendix B6: Raw PSA Data for TiO₂- Mg powder milled for 24 hours

Table B6: PSA results for TiO₂- Mg powder milled for 24 hours

Size (μm)	Vol Under %	Size (μm)	Vol Under %	Size (μm)	Vol Under %	Size (μm)	Vol Under %	Size (μm)	Vol Under %	Size (μm)	Vol Under %
0.010	0.00	0.080	0.84	0.634	6.40	5.053	43.12	40.244	94.23	320.535	100.00
0.011	0.00	0.090	1.10	0.717	7.17	5.709	46.69	45.469	95.26	362.148	100.00
0.013	0.00	0.102	1.38	0.810	8.13	6.450	50.42	51.371	96.19	409.163	100.00
0.014	0.00	0.115	1.69	0.915	9.29	7.287	54.30	58.041	97.06	462.281	100.00
0.016	0.00	0.130	2.00	1.034	10.66	8.233	58.29	65.575	97.85	522.296	100.00
0.018	0.00	0.147	2.32	1.168	12.24	9.302	62.33	74.089	98.55	590.102	100.00
0.021	0.00	0.166	2.65	1.320	14.02	10.510	66.37	83.707	99.13	666.711	100.00
0.024	0.00	0.187	2.97	1.491	15.98	11.874	70.31	94.574	99.57	753.265	100.00
0.027	0.00	0.211	3.28	1.684	18.09	13.416	74.09	106.852	99.87	851.056	100.00
0.030	0.01	0.239	3.57	1.903	20.35	15.157	77.62	120.724	99.97	961.542	100.00
0.034	0.03	0.270	3.85	2.150	22.73	17.125	80.85	136.397	100.00	1086.372	100.00
0.038	0.07	0.305	4.10	2.429	25.23	19.348	83.73	154.104	100.00	1227.408	100.00
0.043	0.12	0.345	4.35	2.745	27.85	21.860	86.24	174.110	100.00	1386.753	100.00
0.049	0.20	0.389	4.61	3.101	30.60	24.698	88.39	196.714	100.00	1566.785	100.00
0.055	0.31	0.440	4.92	3.503	33.48	27.904	90.22	222.251	100.00	1770.189	100.00
0.062	0.44	0.497	5.30	3.958	36.53	31.527	91.76	251.105	100.00	2000.000	100.00
0.070	0.62	0.561	5.78	4.472	39.73	35.620	93.08	283.704	100.00		

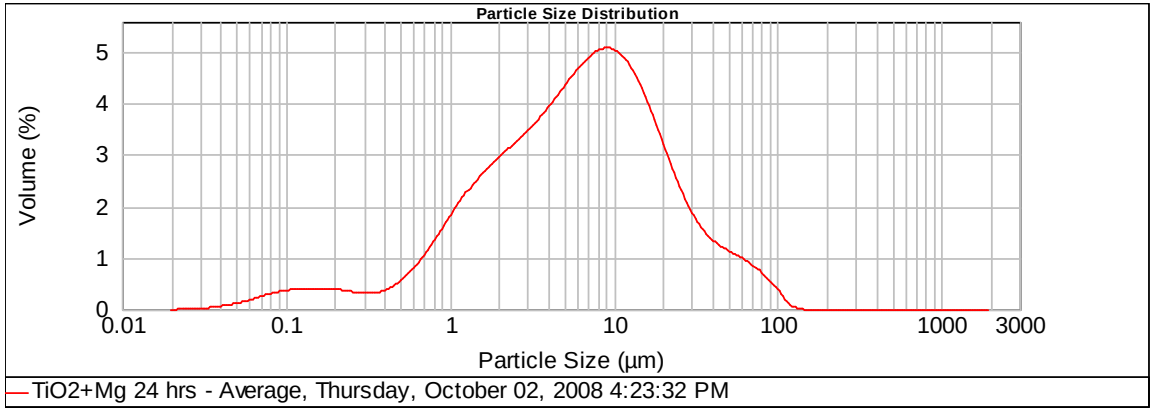


Figure B6: Volume (%) vs Particle Size (microns), milling duration 24 hours

Appendix B7: Raw PSA Data for TiO₂- Mg powder milled for 32 hours

Table B7: PSA results for TiO₂- Mg powder milled for 32 hours

Size(um)	%Chan	% Pass	Size(um)	%Chan	% Pass
2000	0.00	100.00	5.50	5.74	31.75
1674	0.00	100.00	4.62	5.16	26.01
1408	0.00	100.00	3.89	4.62	20.85
1184	0.00	100.00	3.27	4.05	16.23
995.5	0.00	100.00	2.750	3.41	12.18
837.1	0.00	100.00	2.312	2.75	8.77
703.9	0.00	100.00	1.944	2.13	6.02
591.9	0.00	100.00	1.635	1.58	3.89
497.8	0.00	100.00	1.375	1.11	2.31
418.6	0.00	100.00	1.156	0.74	1.20
352.0	0.00	100.00	0.972	0.46	0.46
296.0	0.00	100.00	0.817	0.00	0.00
248.9	0.00	100.00	0.687	0.00	0.00
209.3	0.00	100.00	0.578	0.00	0.00
176.0	0.00	100.00	0.486	0.00	0.00
148.0	0.00	100.00	0.409	0.00	0.00
124.4	0.00	100.00	0.344	0.00	0.00
104.6	0.00	100.00	0.2890	0.00	0.00
87.99	0.00	100.00	0.2430	0.00	0.00
73.99	0.00	100.00	0.2040	0.00	0.00
62.22	0.00	100.00	0.1720	0.00	0.00
52.32	0.35	100.00	0.1450	0.00	0.00
44.00	0.72	99.65	0.1220	0.00	0.00
37.00	1.51	98.93	0.1020	0.00	0.00
31.11	2.68	97.42	0.0860	0.00	0.00
26.16	3.98	94.74	0.0720	0.00	0.00
22.00	5.33	90.76	0.0610	0.00	0.00
18.50	6.76	85.43	0.0510	0.00	0.00
15.55	8.00	78.67	0.0430	0.00	0.00
13.08	8.52	70.67	0.0360	0.00	0.00
11.00	8.56	62.15	0.0300	0.00	0.00
9.25	8.03	53.59	0.02550	0.00	0.00

7.78 7.30 45.56 0.02150 0.00 0.00
6.54 6.51 38.26 0.01810 0.00 0.00

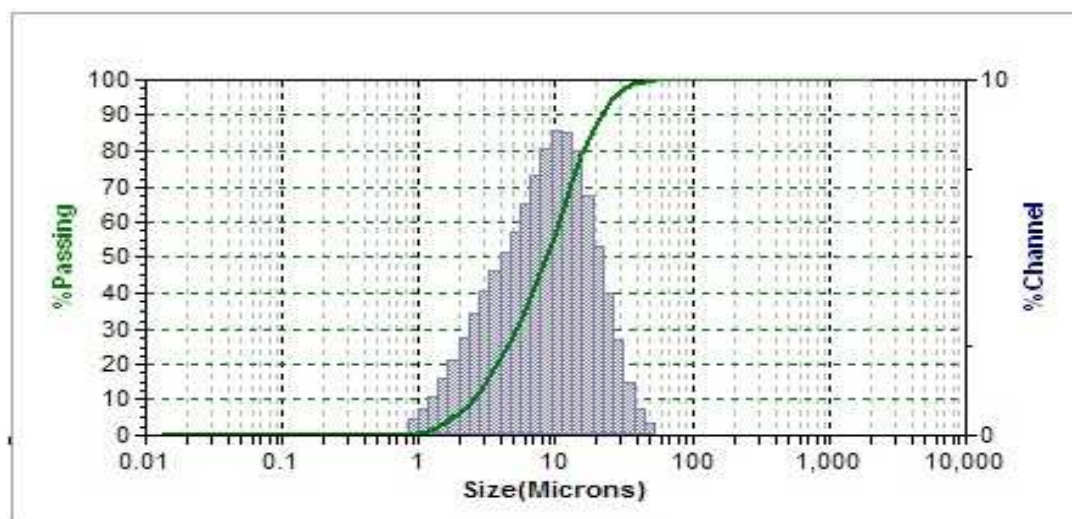


Figure B7: % Passing vs Particle Size (microns), milling duration 32 hours

Appendix B8: d10, d50 and d90 particle sizes for all the powders

Table B1: Results of Particle Size Analysis

Milling hours	d(0.1) um microns	d(0.5) um microns	d(0.9) microns	Specific surface area m ² /g	Weighted residual (%)
0	0.755	37.050	87.607	2.010	0.967
2	17.210	39.952	80.959	0.221	1.012
4	2.324	12.663	46.868	1.130	0.609
8	2.937	12.172	68.146	0.997	0.859
16	2.298	9.135	119.722	1.230	0.704
24	0.977	6.364	27.467	4.100	0.720
32	2.471	8.580	21.41	-	-

Appendix C1: XRD data for unmilled TiO₂- Mg powders

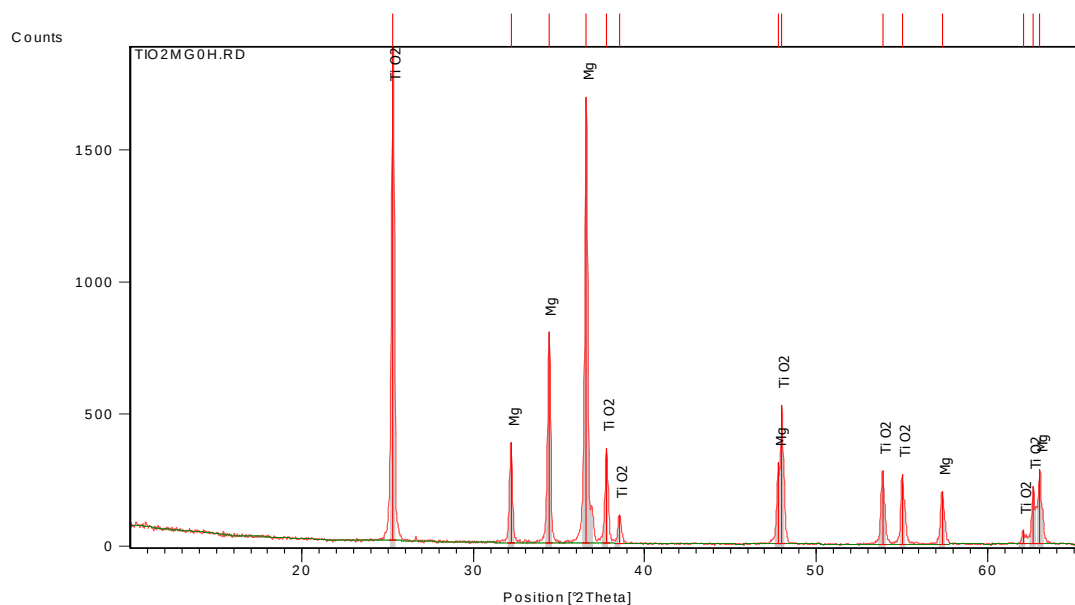


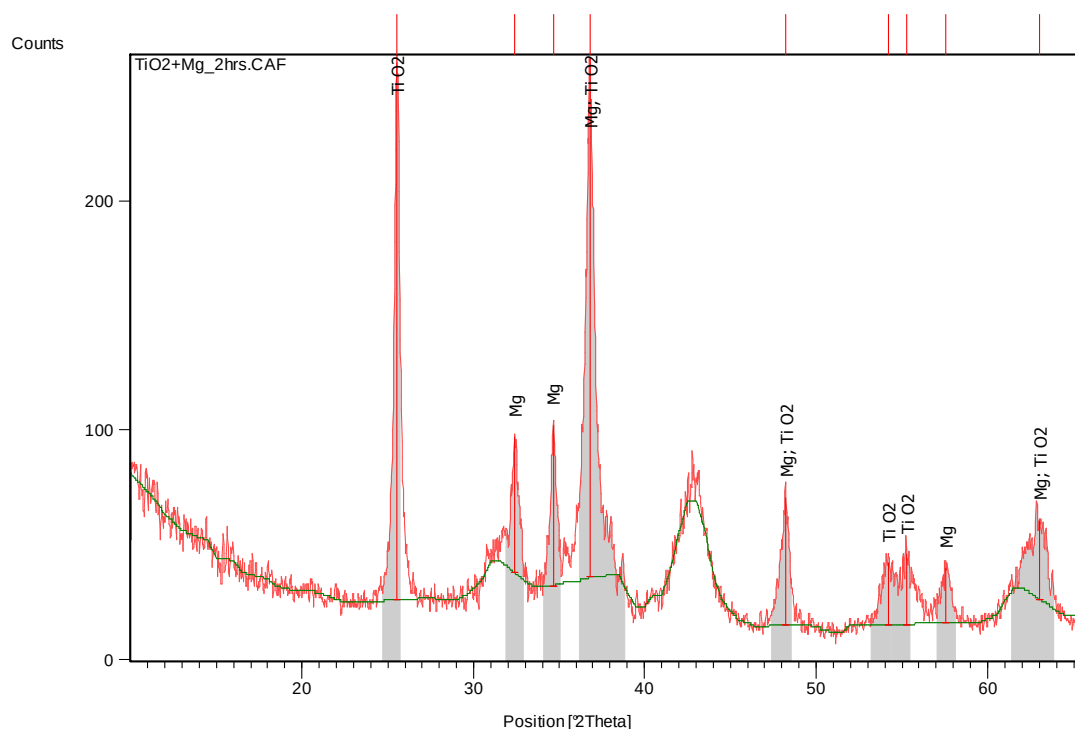
Figure C1: XRD pattern for unmilled TiO₂-15Mg

Table C1: Peak List

Pos. [°2Th.]	Height [cts]	FWHM [°2Th.]	d-spacing [Å]	Rel. Int. [%]	Tip width [°2Th.]	Matched by
25,2983	1881,21	0,1771	3,52057	100,00	0,1800	00-004-0477
32,1687	378,26	0,1574	2,78264	20,11	0,1600	00-035-0821
34,3880	794,42	0,1968	2,60797	42,23	0,2000	00-035-0821
36,6062	1685,11	0,1378	2,45487	89,58	0,1400	00-035-0821
37,7901	357,32	0,1968	2,38064	18,99	0,2000	00-004-0477
38,5569	105,63	0,1968	2,33505	5,62	0,2000	00-004-0477
47,7999	307,43	0,0720	1,90131	16,34	0,0600	00-035-0821
48,0044	523,22	0,0984	1,89526	27,81	0,1000	00-004-0477
53,8631	275,65	0,1574	1,70213	14,65	0,1600	00-004-0477
55,0215	263,46	0,1181	1,66900	14,00	0,1200	00-004-0477
57,3307	196,50	0,1378	1,60715	10,45	0,1400	00-035-0821
62,0550	51,25	0,1181	1,49566	2,72	0,1200	00-004-0477
62,6538	215,02	0,1574	1,48280	11,43	0,1600	00-004-0477
63,0253	280,06	0,1440	1,47373	14,89	0,1200	00-035-0821

Table C2: Identified Patterns List

Visible	Ref. Code	Score	Compound Name	Displacement [°2Th.]	Scale Factor	Chemical Formula
*	00-035-0821	64	Magnesium	-0,038	0,957	Mg
*	00-004-0477	64	Anatase, syn	-0,092	0,881	Ti O ₂

Appendix C2: XRD data for TiO₂- Mg powders milled for 2 hours

Figure C2: XRD pattern for TiO₂-15Mg milled for 2 hours
Table C3: Peak List

Pos. [°2Th.]	Height [cts]	FWHM [°2Th.]	d-spacing [Å]	Rel. Int. [%]	Tip width [°2Th.]	Matched by
25,5447	234,14	0,2755	3,48717	100,00	0,2800	00-004-0477
32,3911	58,95	0,4723	2,76404	25,18	0,4800	00-035-0821
34,6454	69,52	0,2362	2,58919	29,69	0,2400	00-035-0821
36,8184	225,93	0,2362	2,44121	96,49	0,2400	00-035-0821; 00-004-0477
48,2383	55,29	0,4723	1,88661	23,61	0,4800	00-035-0821; 00-004-0477

54,2230	27,20	0,6298	1,69168	11,62	0,6400	00-004-0477
55,2814	30,45	0,4723	1,66177	13,00	0,4800	00-004-0477
57,5741	23,82	0,4723	1,60093	10,17	0,4800	00-035-0821
63,0361	34,40	1,1520	1,47350	14,69	0,9600	00-035-0821; 00-004-0477

Table C4: Identified Patterns List

Visible	Ref. Code	Score	Compound Name	Displacement [°2Th.]	Scale Factor	Chemical Formula
*	00-035-0821	77	Magnesium	0,170	0,920	Mg
*	00-004-0477	39	Anatase, syn	-0,143	0,336	Ti O ₂

Appendix C3: XRD data for TiO₂- Mg powders milled for 16 hours

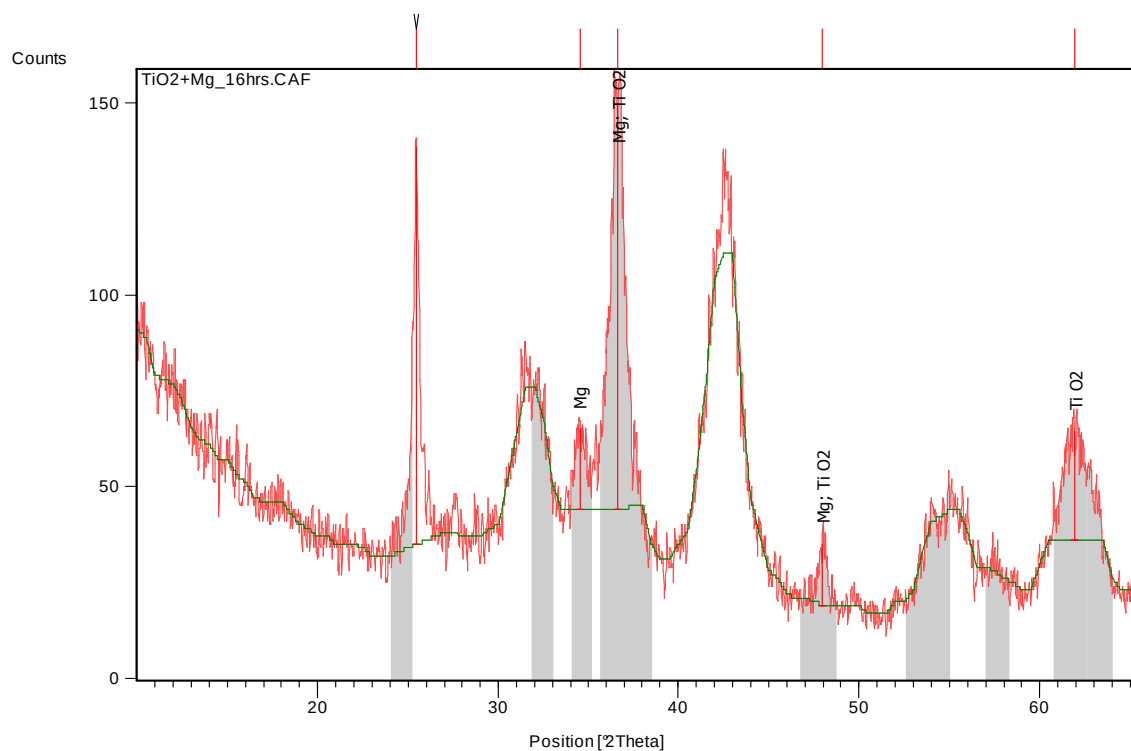


Figure C3: TiO₂-15Mg milled for 16 hours

Table C5: Peak List

Pos. [°2Th.]	Height [cts]	FWHM [°2Th.]	d-spacing [Å]	Rel. Int. [%]	Tip width [°2Th.]	Matched by
25,4432	103,45	0,1574	3,50086	97,80	0,1600	
34,5264	20,81	0,4723	2,59783	19,67	0,4800	00-035-0821
36,6594	105,78	0,5510	2,45143	100,00	0,5600	00-035-0821; 00-021-1272
47,9851	15,83	0,4723	1,89598	14,97	0,4800	00-035-0821; 00-021-1272
61,9214	28,27	1,1520	1,49733	26,72	0,9600	00-021-1272

Table C6: Identified Patterns List

Visible	Ref. Code	Score	Compound Name	Displacement [°2Th.]	Scale Factor	Chemical Formula
*	00-035-0821	38	Magnesium	0,240	0,622	Mg
*	00-021-1272	7	Anatase, syn	-0,609	0,250	Ti O ₂

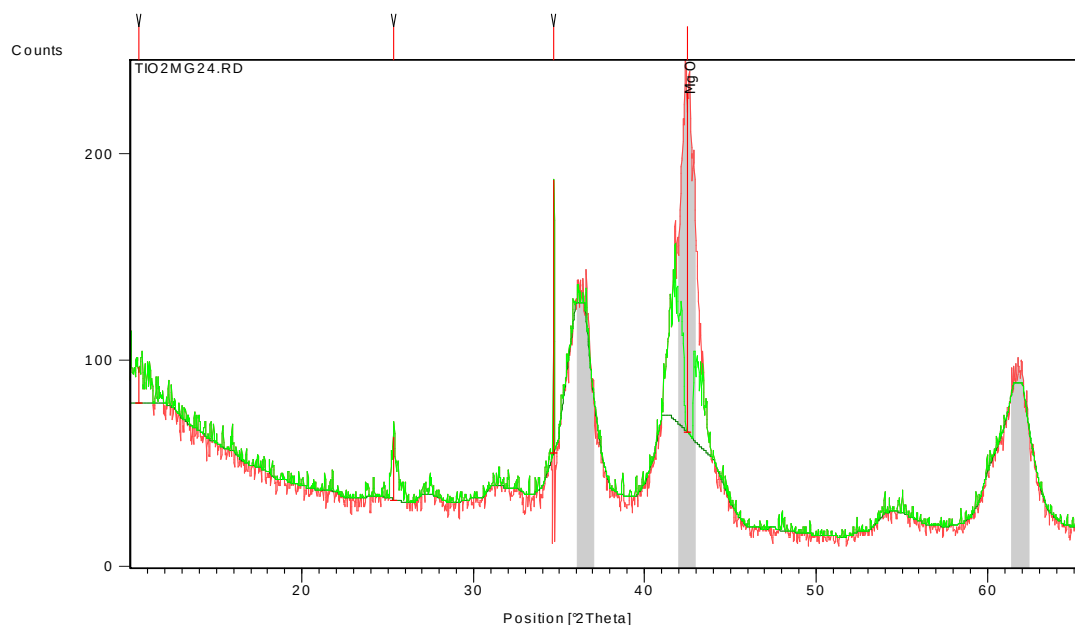
Appendix C4: XRD data for TiO₂- Mg powders milled for 24 hours

Figure C4: TiO₂-15Mg milled for 24 hours

Table C7: Peak List

Pos. [°2Th.]	Height [cts]	FWHM [°2Th.]	d-spacing [Å]	Rel. Int. [%]	Tip width [°2Th.]	Matched by
10,4986	17,44	0,9446	8,42655	10,57	0,9600	
25,3465	30,40	0,2362	3,51400	18,42	0,2400	
34,6700	132,53	0,0480	2,58526	80,31	0,0400	
42,4937	165,02	0,5760	2,12563	100,00	0,4800	00-045-0946

Table C8: Identified Patterns List

Visible	Ref. Code	Score	Compound Name	Displacement [°2Th.]	Scale Factor	Chemical Formula
*	00-045-0946	35	Periclase, syn	-0,387	0,734	Mg O

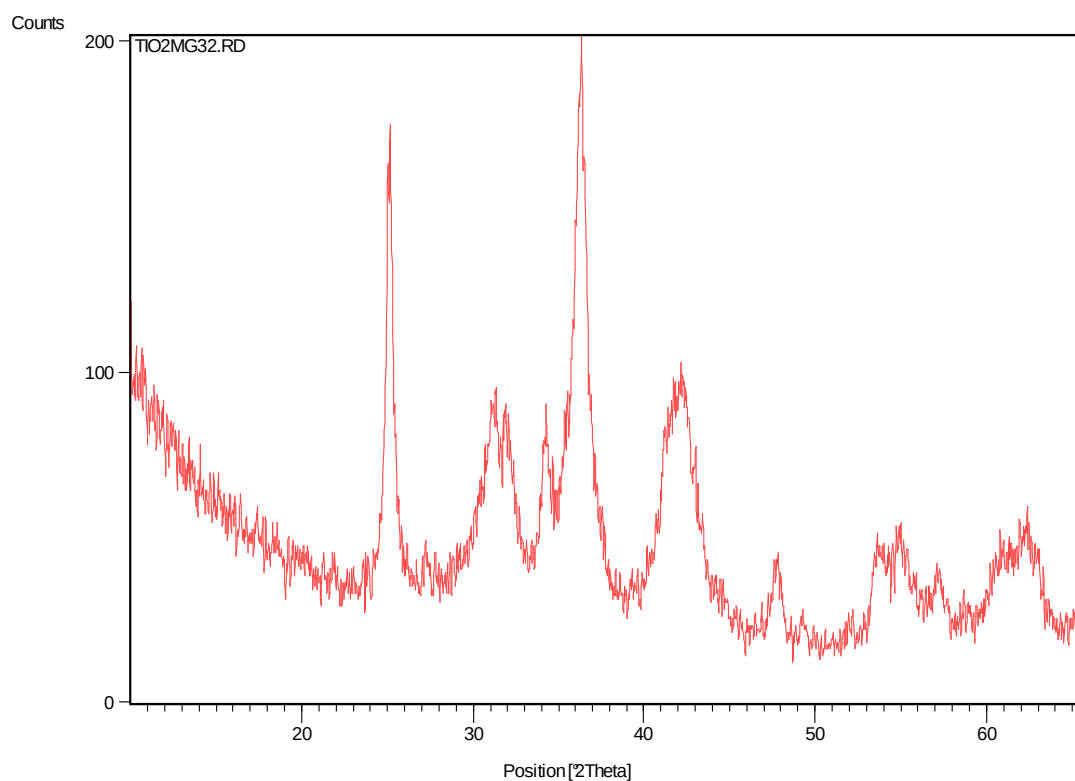
Appendix C5: XRD data for TiO₂- Mg powders milled for 32 hours

Figure C5: TiO₂-15Mg milled for 32 hours

Table C8: Peak List

Pos. [°2Th.]	Height [cts]	FWHM [°2Th.]	d-spacing [Å]	Rel. Int. [%]	Tip width [°2Th.]	Matched by
25,2110	150,00	0,4330	3,53257	86,71	0,4400	01-075-1537
32,1400	47,00	0,6298	2,78506	27,17	0,6400	01-089-5003
34,2031	34,00	0,4723	2,62164	19,65	0,4800	01-089-5003
36,4939	173,00	0,4723	2,46217	100,00	0,4800	01-089-5003; 00-045-0946; 01-075-1537
42,7836	21,00	0,9446	2,11364	12,14	0,9600	00-045-0946
47,9038	32,00	0,5510	1,89900	18,50	0,5600	01-089-5003; 01-075-1537
53,6911	17,00	0,6298	1,70717	9,83	0,6400	01-075-1537
57,3199	17,49	0,5760	1,60609	10,11	0,4800	01-089-5003

Table C9: Identified Patterns List

Visible	Ref. Code	Score	Compound Name	Displaceme nt [°2Th.]	Scale Factor	Chemical Formula
*	01-089-5003	75	Magnesium	-0,123	0,975	Mg
	00-045-0946	33	Periclase, syn	-0,168	0,138	Mg O
*	01-075-1537	38	Anatase	-0,676	0,475	Ti O ₂

Appendix C6: XRD data for TiO₂- Mg powder leached in 1.3M HCl

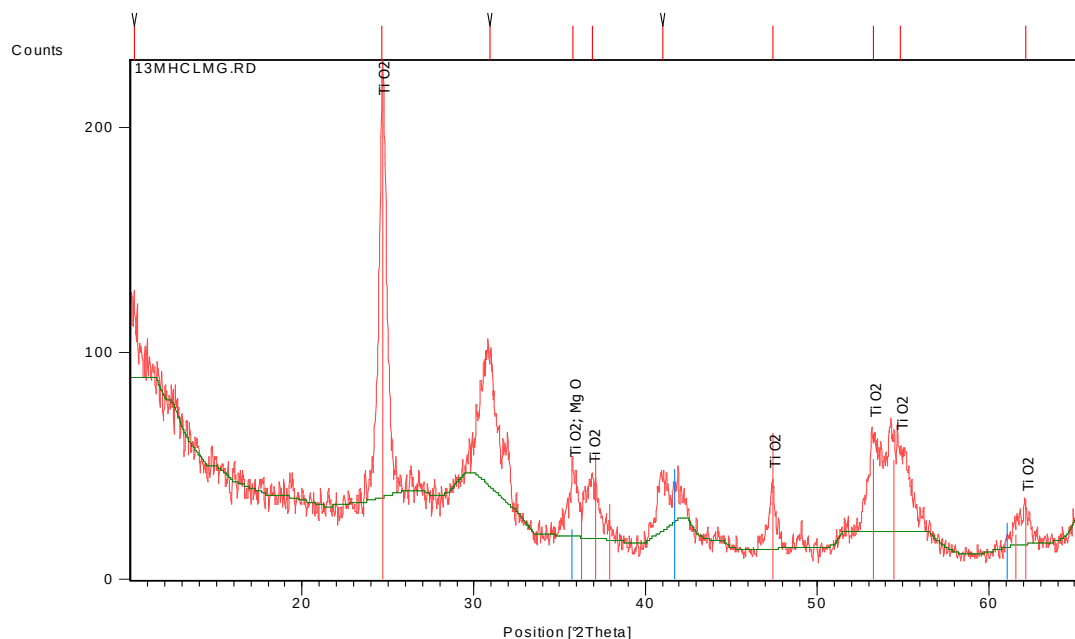


Figure C6: TiO₂-15Mg leached in 1.3M HCl

Table C12: Peak List

Pos. [°2Th.]	Height [cts]	FWHM [°2Th.]	d-spacing [Å]	Rel. Int. [%]	Tip width [°2Th.]	Matched by
10,2412	30,49	0,4723	8,63772	16,05	0,4800	
24,6584	189,98	0,2755	3,61046	100,00	0,2800	01-089-4921
30,8925	58,09	0,5510	2,89462	30,58	0,5600	
35,8097	27,08	0,4723	2,50762	14,25	0,4800	01-089-4921; 01-087-0651
36,9671	25,49	0,4723	2,43173	13,42	0,4800	01-089-4921
41,0099	23,87	0,4723	2,20087	12,56	0,4800	
47,4267	28,24	0,2755	1,91698	14,86	0,2800	01-089-4921
53,2914	42,57	0,4723	1,71903	22,41	0,4800	01-089-4921
54,8293	37,00	0,9446	1,67440	19,48	0,9600	01-089-4921
62,1421	15,97	0,9600	1,49254	8,41	0,8000	01-089-4921

Table C13: Identified Patterns List

Visible	Ref. Code	Score	Compound Name	Displacement [°2Th.]	Scale Factor	Chemical Formula
*	01-089-4921	77	Anatase, syn	-0,688	0,962	Ti O ₂
*	01-087-0651	13	Periclase	-1,142	0,097	Mg O

Appendix C7: XRD data for TiO₂- Mg powder leached in 0.15M oxalic/ascorbic acids

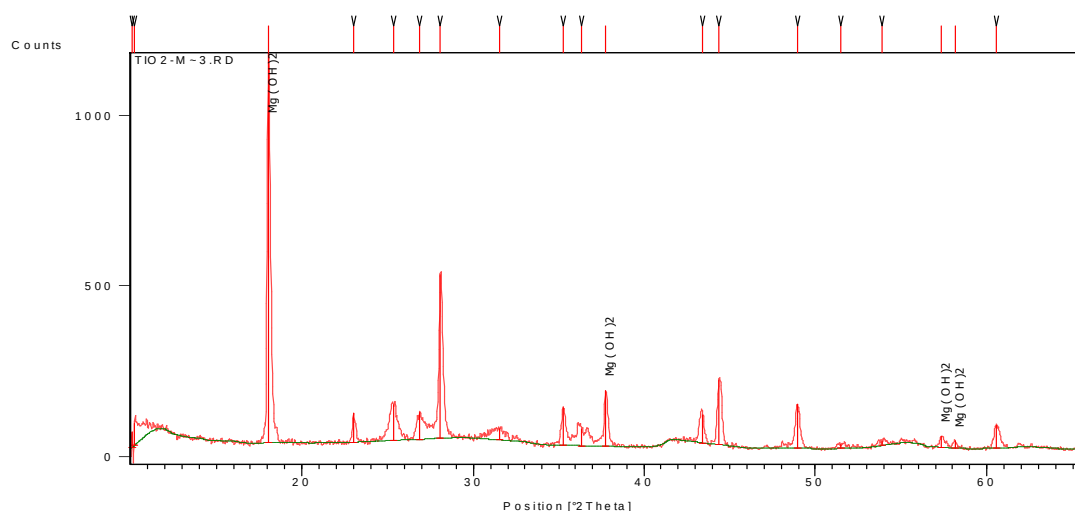


Figure C7: TiO₂-15Mg leached in 0.15M oxalic/ascorbic acids

Table C14: Peak List

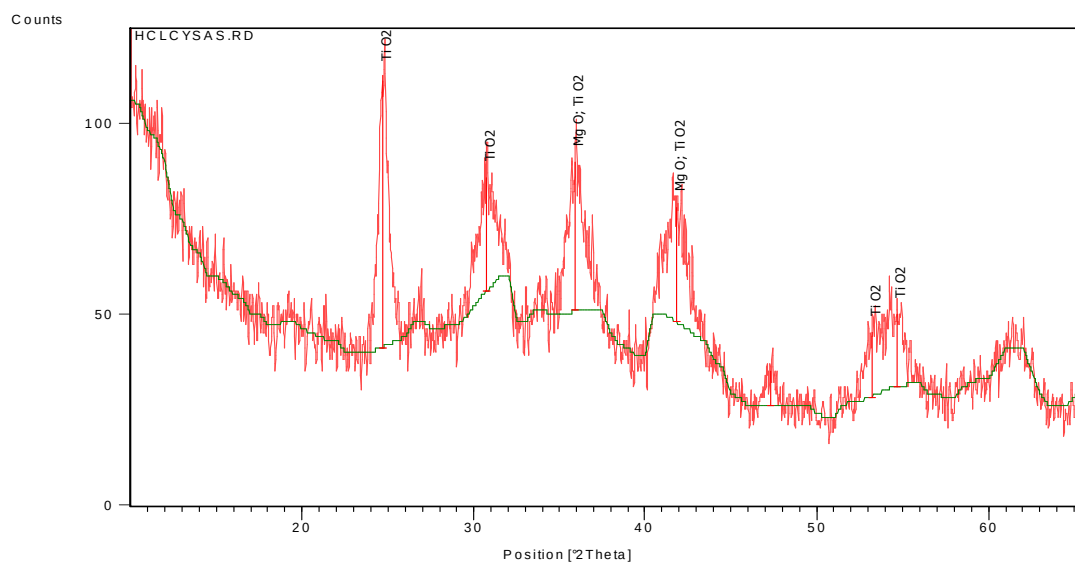
Pos. [°2Th.]	Height [cts]	FWHM [°2Th.]	d-spacing [Å]	Rel. Int. [%]	Tip width [°2Th.]	Matched by
10,1027	45,80	0,0590	8,75581	3,98	0,0600	01-074-2220
10,2448	63,59	0,0787	8,63469	5,53	0,0800	
18,0516	1149,69	0,1968	4,91421	100,00	0,2000	
23,0042	84,20	0,2362	3,86621	7,32	0,2400	
25,3755	105,07	0,3936	3,51004	9,14	0,4000	
26,8927	79,18	0,2755	3,31536	6,89	0,2800	
28,0766	479,59	0,1574	3,17820	41,72	0,1600	
31,5507	33,04	0,6298	2,83572	2,87	0,6400	
35,3113	110,82	0,2362	2,54187	9,64	0,2400	01-074-2220
36,3856	48,28	0,6298	2,46925	4,20	0,6400	
37,7771	163,37	0,2362	2,38143	14,21	0,2400	
43,4535	82,96	0,2755	2,08260	7,22	0,2800	
44,3788	190,43	0,1771	2,04130	16,56	0,1800	
48,9657	130,17	0,1574	1,86027	11,32	0,1600	
51,5065	13,83	0,4723	1,77432	1,20	0,4800	
53,8791	13,06	0,6298	1,70166	1,14	0,6400	

57,3666	32,59	0,3149	1,60623	2,83	0,3200	01-074-2220
58,1339	20,99	0,2362	1,58684	1,83	0,2400	01-074-2220
60,5707	65,65	0,3840	1,52744	5,71	0,3200	

Table C15: Identified Patterns List

Visible	Ref. Code	Score	Compound Name	Displacement [°2Th.]	Scale Factor	Chemical Formula
	01-074-2220	22	Brucite	-0,250	0,128	Mg (O H) ₂

Appendix C8: XRD data for TiO₂- Mg powder leached in 0.15M HCl/cysteine/ascorbic acids


Figure C8: TiO₂-15Mg leached in 0.15M HCl/cysteine/ascorbic acids
Table C16: Peak List

Pos. [°2Th.]	Height [cts]	FWHM [°2Th.]	d-spacing [Å]	Rel. Int. [%]	Tip width [°2Th.]	Matched by
24,7194	71,51	0,4723	3,60170	100,00	0,4800	00-021-1236
30,7417	29,82	0,7872	2,90848	41,70	0,8000	00-021-1236
35,9662	38,86	0,7872	2,49707	54,34	0,8000	00-045-0946; 00-021-1236
41,8269	29,88	0,9446	2,15974	41,78	0,9600	00-045-0946; 00-021-1236
47,3051	8,99	0,9446	1,92163	12,57	0,9600	
53,2273	17,06	0,9446	1,72095	23,86	0,9600	00-021-1236

54,6801	18,84	1,1520	1,67722	26,34	0,9600	00-021-1236
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Table C17: Identified Patterns List

Visible	Ref. Code	Score	Compound Name	Displacement [°2Th.]	Scale Factor	Chemical Formula
	00-045-0946	36	Periclase, syn	-1,041	0,248	Mg O
*	00-021-1236	25	Titanium Oxide	-0,401	0,274	Ti O ₂

Appendix C9: XRD data for TiO₂- Mg powder leached in 0.5M H₂SO₄

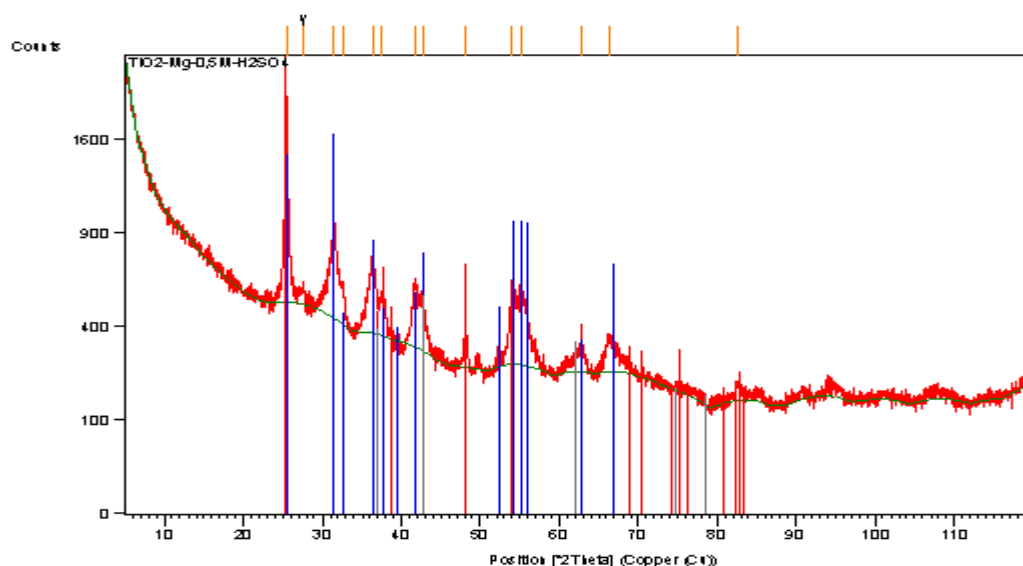


Figure C9: TiO₂-15Mg leached in 0.5M H₂SO₄

Table C18: Peak List

Pos.[°2Th.]	Height[cts]	FWHM[°2Th.]	d-spacing[Å]	Rel.Int.[%]
25.4071	1450.65	0.2303	3.50575	100.00
0.2763	01-089-4921;00..			
27.5063	83.73	0.6140	3.24278	5.77
0.7368				
31.4792	467.38	0.5117	2.84200	32.22
0.6140	00-019-1370			
32.6647	184.87	0.3070	2.74152	12.74
0.3684	00-019-1370			
36.5211	326.90	0.8187	2.46040	22.53
0.9824	00-019-1370;01..			
37.5766	198.53	0.6140	2.39367	13.69
0.7368	01-089-4921;00..			
41.7334	285.80	0.5117	2.16437	19.70
0.6140	00-019-1370			

42.7270	206.67	0.5117	2.11631	14.25
0.6140	00-019-1370;01..			
48.0994	165.97	0.2047	1.89174	11.44
0.2456	01-089-4921			
53.9724	352.90	0.2047	1.69894	24.33
0.2456	01-089-4921;00..			
55.1613	329.68	0.3070	1.66510	22.73
0.3684	01-089-4921;00..			
62.7222	126.78	0.4093	1.48135	8.74
0.4912	01-089-4921;00..			
66.3457	129.19	0.8187	1.40896	8.91
0.9824	00-019-1370			
82.7042	49.93	0.7488	1.16591	3.44
0.8986	01-089-4921			

Table C19: Pattern List

Visible	Ref.Code	Score	Compound Name	Displ.[°2Th]
Scale Fac.	Chem. Formula			
*	01-089-4921	54	Anatase, syn	0.000
0.887	Ti O ₂			
*	00-019-1370	42	Titanium Oxide	0.000
0.505	Ti O ₂			
*	01-079-0612	21	Magnesium Oxide	0.000
0.101	Mg O			

Appendix C10: XRD data for Ti-20Mg leached in 0.5M H₂SO₄
* Ti-Mg

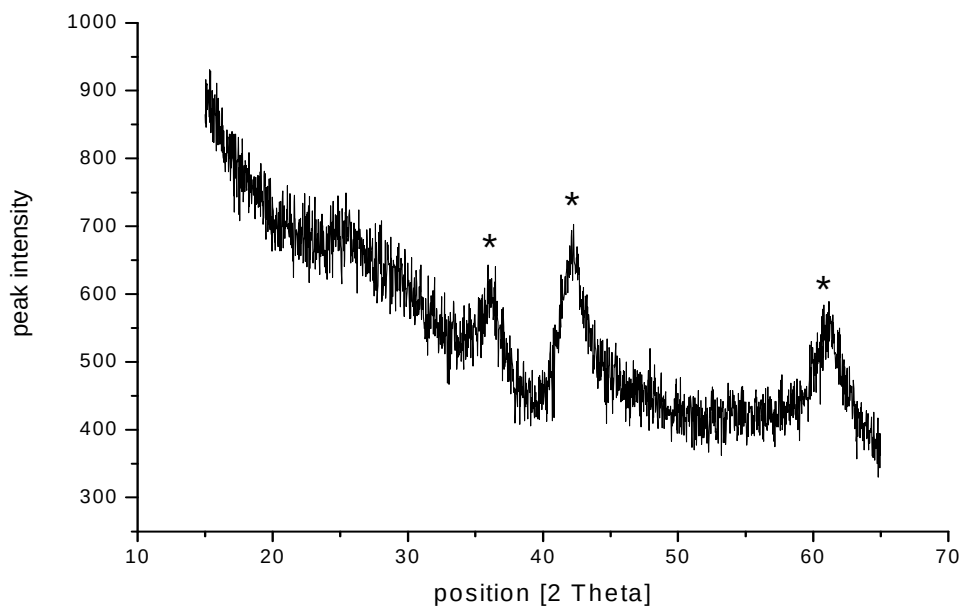


Figure C10: Ti-20Mg leached in 0.5M H₂SO₄

Table C20 Intensities

1518 1444 1387 1444 1446 1479 1411 1376 1385 1417 1429 1415
 1427 1346 1413 1377 1353 1369 1378 1347 1391 1329 1322 1342
 1306 1311 1330 1391 1353 1278 1336 1347 1247 1289 1341 1319
 1304 1259 1208 1243 1261 1142 1291 1225 1272 1247 1243 1203
 1244 1251 1290 1247 1230 1193 1208 1257 1204 1200 1188 1243
 1204 1186 1177 1164 1184 1212 1145 1148 1174 1198 1107 1179
 1060 1173 1138 1094 1098 1155 1122 1050 1173 1110 1221 1116
 1198 1126 1086 1153 1092 1124 1089 1107 1064 1123 1135 1064
 1097 1148 1066 1117 1092 1118 1083 1113 1092 1085 1121 1113
 1035 1054 1070 1024 1050 1043 1050 1057 1055 1040 1066 1015
 1074 1052 997 1059 1024 1046 1035 1043 1028 1023 984 1080 981
 1020 1062 1000 1033 1013 1083 1029 962 1045 997 984 983 1012
 1003 1017 1030 963 969 971 1016 1051 985 993 991 975 967 982 986
 955 990 1032 979 990 926 929 1000 973 933 882 974 1000 946 914
 932 935 887 972 928 929 932 910 983 887 968 906 977 894 894 901
 853 937 960 907 871 905 964 865 970 883 901 886 855 868 892 916
 933 865 852 916 846 907 910 872 882 895 901 898 861 931 853 884
 929 838 873 862 857 900 882 825 869 888 823 893 894 864 866 849
 811 911 839 859 885 820 889 834 841 870 866 821 846 847 845 811
 875 809 849 805 800 841 794 817 794 792 780 807 795 804 842 808
 826 832 810 780 793 836 800 809 767 788 836 786 805 840 801 799
 794 745 836 721 801 811 771 836 812 784 743 797 798 795 831 794
 717 787 708 805 781 775 756 779 807 751 829 798 767 736 748 790
 751 797 795 780 790 757 753 770 785 778 765 782 720 809 729 764
 753 750 776 769 733 755 760 758 769 746 767 773 758 717 711 772
 744 732 756 749 734 756 775 728 731 763 774 729 780 715 793 736
 738 752 730 737 703 712 712 774 781 759 778 728 701 681 758 710
 759 692 738 735 703 770 735 701 695 771 730 694 688 714 663 743
 728 723 691 710 677 687 665 716 696 699 727 720 703 689 679 670
 720 677 736 664 705 697 737 664 699 699 736 752 752 668 709 696
 730 682 706 697 700 708 700 725 711 760 714 696 704 692 684 711
 748 673 680 718 687 668 694 705 649 673 625 684 736 746 712 711
 657 678 695 690 686 658 686 690 705 651 710 675 657 691 712 657
 694 675 699 689 734 646 647 679 685 748 686 648 680 714 686 717
 640 721 669 715 730 730 617 744 638 683 651 691 679 697 694 723
 687 646 662 662 668 706 743 637 687 710 679 651 681 664 689 661
 710 710 680 629 672 707 655 674 660 680 718 676 701 657 693 691
 663 665 640 665 657 631 667 699 622 667 689 665 701 687 700 684
 631 676 693 730 691 670 659 706 625 698 737 663 690 681 696 685
 717 670 685 688 716 686 681 745 664 718 679 665 722 681 685 671
 667 637 615 726 691 682 682 664 708 641 652 701 721 710 749 674
 711 715 685 698 678 684 716 724 709 700 673 646 706 688 677 656
 662 648 665 681 663 705 669 653 696 677 646 693 655 601 693 688
 689 681 724 667 670 696 680 642 675 679 683 670 646 627 647 681
 659 672 646 667 664 626 626 633 695 681 630 636 631 646 668 634
 631 638 697 619 663 648 665 672 682 620 639 618 638 597 649 652
 626 704 642 605 676 646 587 607 612 647 691 664 645 702 685 637
 630 630 708 589 594 624 598 614 645 612 638 637 612 679 594 604
 620 637 676 651 673 652 647 643 645 619 571 600 684 619 653 585

614 641 596 635 650 645 639 643 611 575 641 607 617 656 604 649
669 644 634 675 606 608 638 601 581 653 636 645 617 604 609 623
628 583 567 610 666 650 607 609 582 598 603 612 646 624 612 620
585 564 615 617 564 610 612 654 590 587 582 603 609 568 614 624
555 562 593 599 635 616 568 590 576 592 570 574 611 577 585 636
603 643 587 563 596 588 579 577 595 566 549 558 534 538 593 572
545 530 560 570 510 558 627 576 544 535 565 580 587 549 598 571
569 597 568 605 541 585 568 601 625 538 562 563 550 579 575 536
537 539 558 513 517 551 553 570 526 534 546 596 520 565 523 543
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467 559 529 489 573 558 555 540 512 545 559 549 560 590 587 531
528 517 571 549 557 550 489 498 539 531 507 536 510 529 522 528
560 514 543 501 527 517 518 565 521 500 489 583 534 532 540 504
514 516 561 532 508 524 556 521 534 586 543 535 579 506 562 533
554 539 534 520 494 552 557 551 561 570 570 554 540 551 531 541
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571 542 557 584 609 537 591 557 579 569 569 584 556 614 643 586
618 574 565 589 622 595 615 580 623 611 587 591 595 562 572 610
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447 498 501 462 446 413 438 434 485 438 469 443 459 434 435 416
453 472 476 455 472 449 406 437 425 447 425 488 434 440 431 440
431 417 465 435 440 455 419 443 437 437 416 441 420 439 478 415
480 439 473 439 461 468 430 451 487 445 467 438 449 485 483 460
452 429 477 412 471 424 471 472 464 502 483 459 459 512 516 529
477 486 456 413 524 439 550 466 418 475 512 555 525 538 526 523
547 536 520 544 526 513 542 577 584 535 561 551 628 568 589 564
622 600 592 591 595 599 602 618 626 605 599 630 638 650 633 602
646 641 649 625 671 655 629 660 646 684 694 644 654 620 653 679
703 649 646 642 630 640 643 654 632 670 643 621 639 659 629 639
637 577 613 581 586 592 570 569 592 604 556 610 550 569 566 576
574 597 591 531 591 599 562 581 556 512 570 555 545 541 522 549
517 548 516 549 544 555 483 510 509 489 515 561 530 521 520 516
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Appendix C11: XRD data for Mg leached in 0.5M cysteine/ascorbic acid.

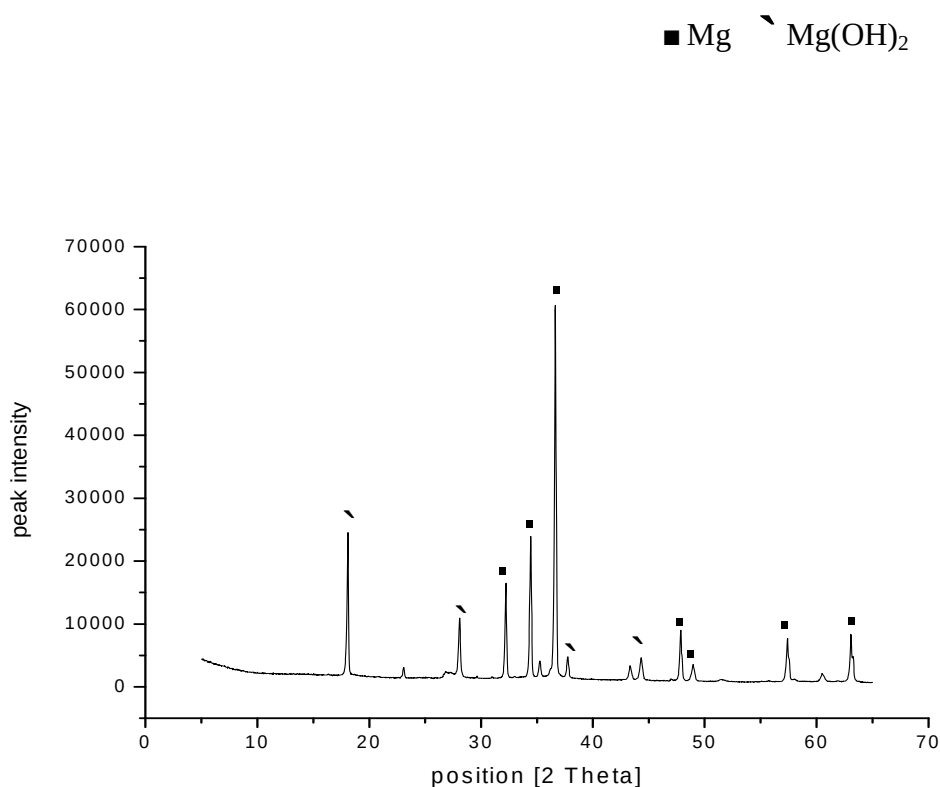


Figure C11: Mg leached in 0.5M cysteine/ascorbic acid.

Table 21 Intensities

69518	64442	60295	56314	52246	48433	44801	40986	38039	34652	31399	28086			
24853	22526	19885	16922	14347	12135	10432	9231	8018	7312	6825	6640	6483		
6390	6348	6190	5889	5927	5800	5885	5781	5722	5496	5389	5342	5120	5120	5090
5020	4998	4873	4909	4838	4708	4717	4819	4650	4723	4675	4661	4738	4563	4464
4535	4416	4496	4481	4466	4358	4441	4346	4269	4307	4459	4271	4360	4208	4217
4137	4256	4158	4195	4140	4205	4193	4177	4142	4081	3935	4059	4029	3932	4081
3946	3837	3931	3978	4047	3929	4083	3866	3857	3807	3832	3720	3718	3752	3726
3752	3735	3587	3676	3615	3598	3712	3583	3624	3713	3611	3565	3534	3474	3472
3529	3508	3515	3500	3456	3386	3510	3498	3450	3439	3402	3385	3361	3238	3299
3334	3352	3339	3296	3298	3276	3284	3235	3344	3288	3215	3266	3184	3125	3075
3129	3102	3044	3057	2952	3204	3049	3052	3102	3063	2993	2913	2950	2965	2980
2930	2847	2958	2896	2938	2915	2687	2807	2898	2917	2732	2770	2753	2708	2808
2765	2738	2665	2744	2733	2813	2803	2677	2759	2684	2714	2709	2666	2709	2670
2656	2725	2584	2503	2538	2503	2533	2503	2608	2567	2568	2540	2498	2578	2517
2503	2508	2448	2438	2441	2380	2467	2452	2423	2439	2388	2403	2389	2373	2325
2323	2385	2354	2321	2393	2355	2337	2356	2347	2290	2365	2272	2326	2389	2330
2350	2390	2190	2212	2310	2220	2284	2292	2306	2147	2176	2217	2186	2202	2264
2326	2221	2173	2220	2211	2180	2215	2136	2183	2164	2169	2188	2197	2145	2181
2182	2081	2129	2154	2266	2112	2192	2033	2118	2183	2144	2219	2230	2129	2128
2070	2082	2131	2164	2165	2148	2157	2107	2179	2106	2104	2039	2117	2156	2106
2097	2034	2177	2096	2047	2200	2036	1952	2050	2243	1999	2162	2093	2138	2088
2115	2100	2090	1991	2031	2062	2105	2041	2024	2071	2134	2021	2008	2094	1983
2117	2045	2071	2040	2004	2104	2081	2072	2104	2051	1942	2048	1978	2034	2053
2069	2059	2176	1982	2165	2024	2033	2112	2070	1992	1945	2001	2039	1998	2003
2033	1974	2005	2051	2028	2058	2097	2000	2099	2028	2010	2092	2044	2049	2027
2007	2047	2145	2106	2178	2079	1970	2050	2045	2041	1954	2039	2028	2006	2027
2030	2112	2062	2038	2027	1957	1964	2011	2104	2015	1973	2073	2020	2015	1995
2023	2011	2036	1943	2025	1989	2093	2034	2000	2002	2072	1972	1953	2041	1984
2000	2045	1974	1950	2017	1994	1985	1972	2090	2104	1978	1996	2017	1961	2010
1935	1969	2033	1959	1997	2017	1944	1868	1965	2000	1953	2056	1900	2012	1957
1926	1964	2018	1889	1951	1961	1958	1817	1889	1957	1829	1964	1950	1840	1923
1944	1931	1905	1906	1940	1950	1864	1906	1938	1930	1840	1981	1895	1888	1967
1913	1976	1913	1873	1927	1857	1919	1899	1882	1897	1873	1925	1920	1985	1961
2005	2022	1968	2036	1945	1917	1867	1821	1894	1914	1895	1931	1878	1822	1857
1856	1758	1873	1819	1847	1783	1871	1931	1871	1889	1819	1865	1814	1845	1781
1857	1862	1855	1888	1754	1877	1975	1814	1807	1925	1869	1894	1847	1918	1911
1966	1936	1935	1965	1955	2034	2038	2175	2171	2378	2353	2717	2961	3298	3873
4468	5330	6471	7963	10182	13212	17124	21397	24572	23796	18374	11500	6400		
3900	2871	2437	2329	2244	2237	1972	2117	2003	1993	2040	1992	2009	1930	1936
1917	1977	2020	1973	1974	1896	1935	1823	1906	1901	1868	1769	1867	1873	1818
1766	1784	1774	1762	1792	1762	1747	1736	1814	1709	1739	1758	1728	1777	1721
1778	1686	1706	1728	1721	1723	1769	1776	1687	1761	1667	1641	1646	1629	1581
1633	1617	1578	1613	1729	1676	1695	1639	1667	1560	1568	1586	1636	1609	1597
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1549	1511	1551	1571	1569	1636	1623	1615	1625	1568	1648	1666	1587	1618	1599
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 1823 2132 2338 2664 2918 3070 2990 2621 2163 1793 1632 1524 1539 1440 1487
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Appendix D: Raw data for leaching graphs

On the leaching experiments, the residue is the powder left undissolved after subjecting a given powder species to specific leaching reagent at a specific concentration.

$$\text{Thus \% Residue} = \left(\frac{\text{final}}{\text{initial}} \right) \times 100$$

where final = dry residue mass after leaching (g)

initial = initial powder mass before leaching (g)

Table D1: Effect of H₂SO₄ concentration on the leaching of Ti-Mg alloy

Constituent	Residue after leaching in different concentrations			
	0.1M	0.5M	0.9M	1.3M
TiO ₂	72.6	61.1	77.7	79.8
Ti-20Mg	79.6	41.3	20.6	11.7
TiO ₂ -Mg	46.7	24.7	18.4	17.2
MgO	60.8	0.0	0.0	0.0

Table D2: Effect of HCl concentration on the leaching of Ti-Mg alloy

Constituent	Residue after leaching in different concentrations			
	0.1M	0.5M	0.9M	1.3M
TiO ₂	83.9	81.3	71.9	64.4
Ti-20Mg	89.8	95.4	59.4	30.5
TiO ₂ -Mg	97.1	36.4	27.8	21.9
MgO	73.4	9.9	0.0	0.0

Table D3: Effect of Aqua regia concentration on the leaching of Ti-Mg alloy

Constituent	Residue after leaching in different concentrations			
	0.1M	0.5M	0.9M	1.3M
TiO ₂	86.7	84.3	78.8	78.5
Ti-20Mg	62.8	74.5	88.2	88.7
TiO ₂ -Mg	79.4	43.6	33.8	30.2
MgO	68.2	0.0	0.0	0.0

Table D4: Effect of equi-molar oxalic/ascorbic acid concentration on the leaching of Ti-Mg alloy

Constituent	Residue after leaching in different concentrations			
	0.05	0.1	0.15	0.2
TiO ₂	84.2	80.7	80.795	78.6
Ti-20Mg	81.6	106.0	117.615	105.4
TiO ₂ -Mg	76.7	88.8	111.475	121.2
MgO	92.0	106.9	123.665	149.7

Table D5: Effect of equi-molar cysteine/ascorbic acid concentration on the leaching of Ti-Mg alloy

Constituent	Residue after leaching in different concentrations			
	0.05	0.1	0.15	0.2
TiO ₂	80.4	68.5	86.2	86.4
Ti-20Mg	83.5	58.6	68.7	66.8
TiO ₂ -Mg	87.3	88.6	73.5	57.4
MgO	72.5	71.1	68.9	63.1

Table D6: Effect of HCl with equi-molar cysteine/ascorbic acid concentration on the leaching of Ti-Mg alloy

Constituent	Residue after leaching in different concentrations			
	0.075	0.3	0.525	0.75
TiO ₂	83.0	80.6	83.0	77.6
Ti-20Mg	85.3	86.6	69.8	68.9
TiO ₂ -Mg	99.3	46.8	31.2	22.9
MgO	78.8	41.3	12.5	0.2