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Shanyi Du
Jinsong Leng
Anand K. Asundi
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Contents

Part One

xxv	Conference Committee
xxxi	Preface

SESSION 1 **PIEZOELECTRIC MATERIALS I**

- 6423 02 **Hydrothermal synthesis of (K,Na)(Nb,Ta)O₃ powder for fabrication of lead-free piezoelectric ceramics** [6423-01]
K. J. Zhu, J. H. Qiu, Z. L. Meng, Nanjing Univ. of Aeronautics and Astronautics (China); K. Kajiyoshi, K. Yanagisawa, N. Li, Kochi Univ. (Japan)
- 6423 03 **Axial load transfer from a piezoelectric cylindrical fiber into a transversely isotropic elastic matrix** [6423-02]
Y. Sapsathiarn, T. Senjuntichai, Chulalongkorn Univ. (Thailand); R. K. N. D. Rajapakse, The Univ. of British Columbia (Canada)
- 6423 04 **Preparation and damping properties of PZT/acetylene carbon black/bromobutyl rubber composites** [6423-03]
Y. Qiao, X. Zhang, X. Li, X. Wang, Harbin Engineering Univ. (China)
- 6423 05 **Preparation and electrical properties of 1-3 PZT fiber/IPNs piezoelectric composites** [6423-04]
J. Liu, D. Y. Tang, X. L. Wu, Harbin Institute of Technology (China); Y. J. Qiao, Harbin Engineering Univ. (China)

SESSION 2 **MEMS APPLICATIONS**

- 6423 06 **A novel hinged micromachined high-g piezoresistive accelerometer** [6423-05]
K. Fan, B. Xiong, L. Che, Y. Wang, Shanghai Institute of Microsystem and Information Technology (China)
- 6423 07 **Effect of geometry on thermoelastic damping in MEMS** [6423-06]
Y.-B. Yi, Univ. of Denver (USA)
- 6423 08 **A bulk micromachined gyroscope with improved quality-factors at atmospheric pressure** [6423-07]
W. Chen, H. Chen, X. Liu, T. Han, H. Wang, Harbin Institute of Technology (China)
- 6423 09 **Design, simulation, and fabrication of a silicon micro flat heat pipe with axial triangle grooves** [6423-08]
X. Liu, L. Xu, X. Xin, M. Huo, Harbin Institute of Technology (China)

SESSION 3 FILMS

- 6423 0A **Nanocrystalline $\text{Sr}_{1-x}\text{Ba}_x\text{Bi}_4\text{Ti}_4\text{O}_{15}$ thin films for piezoelectric pressure sensor** [6423-09]
N. A. Abdul Manaf, M. Mat Salleh, M. Yahaya, Univ. Kebangsaan Malaysia (Malaysia)
- 6423 0B **Modulated wrinkle patterns in a gold thin film deposited onto an elastomeric polymer** [6423-10]
X. L. Zhao, S. Dong, W. W. An, T. Sun, Y. C. Liang, Harbin Institute of Technology (China)
- 6423 0C **Crystallization and compositional changes in amorphous PECVD SiN_x thin films** [6423-11]
N. Jehanathan, M. Saunders, Y. Liu, J. Dell, The Univ. of Western Australia (Australia)
- 6423 0D **Effects of process variables on interfacial quality of laser cladding on GH4133 alloy** [6423-12]
Z. Xiong, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China) and Naval Univ. of Engineering (China); G. Chen, X. Zeng, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China)
- 6423 0E **Solvent-cast PCL films support the regeneration of NG108-15 nerve cells** [6423-13]
M. Sun, S. Downes, The Univ. of Manchester (United Kingdom)
- 6423 0F **Growth of iron films on silicon: effect of the deposition rate** [6423-14]
A. S. Goualnik, Institute for Automation and Control Processes (Russia); N. G. Galkin, Institute for Automation and Control Processes (Russia) and Far-East State Univ. (Russia); V. I. Ivanov, Far-East State Univ. (Russia)
- 6423 0G **Mechanical strength of carbon nanotube/nickel nanocomposite** [6423-15]
Y. Sun, Q. Chen, Univ. of Central Florida (USA)

SESSION 4 STRUCTURAL HEALTH MONITORING I

- 6423 0H **Novel health baseline for structural health monitoring and damage localization** [6423-16]
Q. Pei, Harbin Institute of Technology (China) and Dalian Univ. (China); X. Guo, Institute of Engineering Mechanics, CEA (China); X. Tao, Harbin Institute of Technology (China)
- 6423 0I **Structural health monitoring of composite wind blades by fiber Bragg grating** [6423-17]
Z.-S. Guo, J. Zhang, H. Hu, X. Guo, Shanghai Univ. (China)
- 6423 0J **Crack monitoring in concrete structures based on piezoelectric impedance technique** [6423-18]
D. Wang, H. Zhu, Z. Gao, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China)

SESSION 5 ACTUATORS AND SENSORS I

- 6423 0K **Electro-active paper for biomimetic actuator activated in low humidity condition** [6423-19]
S.-R. Yun, G. Y. Yun, N. Jyoti, Y. Chen, H. S. Kim, Inha Univ. (South Korea); L. J. Zhao, Shenyang Institute of Aeronautical Engineering (China); J. Kim, Inha Univ. (South Korea)

- 6423 OL **CP actuator based on chemically deposited polypyrrole and PU based solid polymer electrolyte working in air** [6423-20]
H. J. Choi, H.-O. Lim, I. Chung, Pusan National Univ. (South Korea); K.-S. Ryu, Univ. of Ulsan (South Korea); N.-J. Jo, Pusan National Univ. (South Korea)
- 6423 OM **Self-sensing concrete-filled FRP tubes using FBG strain sensors** [6423-21]
X. Yan, H. Li, Harbin Institute of Technology (China)
- 6423 ON **A novel stable and high-sensitivity fiber strain sensor based on optical pulse correlation measurement** [6423-22]
H. Song, K. Nonaka, Kochi Univ. of Technology (Japan)

SESSION 6 APPLICATION OF SMA I

- 6423 OO **Superelastic behavior of shape memory alloy wires for seismic engineering application: theory and experiment** [6423-23]
H. Qian, H. Li, Dalian Univ. of Technology (China); G. Song, Univ. of Houston (USA)
- 6423 OP **Bioactive modification of NiTi shape memory alloy** [6423-24]
C. Huang, Y. Xie, L. Zhou, H. Huang, J. Lu, The Hong Kong Polytechnic Univ. (Hong Kong China); Y. Zhang, China Univ. of Geosciences (China)
- 6423 OQ **A study on the actuation behavior of shape memory alloys under tension-torsion combined loading** [6423-25]
J.-H. Chung, Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute (South Korea); H.-C. Kim, J.-J. Lee, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (South Korea)

SESSION 7 NANOMATERIALS I

- 6423 OR **Effect of multi-walled carbon nanotubes on the vibration-reduction behavior of cement** [6423-26]
Z. Duan, J. Luo, Harbin Institute of Technology (China)
- 6423 OS **Synthesis of carbon nanomaterials by atmospheric microplasma** [6423-27]
Q. Zou, A. Hatta, Kochi Univ. of Technology (Japan)

SESSION 8 LUMINESCENT MATERIALS

- 6423 OT **Emission from cleaved indium phosphide (InP)** [6423-28]
D. Li, Edith Cowan Univ. (Australia)

SESSION 9 MEMBRANES AND ELASTOMERS

- 6423 OU **Smart membranes for aerospace applications** [6423-29]
H. Baier, L. Datashvili, S. Rapp, Technische Univ. München (Germany)

- 6423 0V **Ionic polymer-metal composite actuators employing sulfonated poly (styrene-ethylene-butylene-styrene) as ionic-exchange membranes** [6423-30]
X.-L. Wang, I.-K. Oh, J. Lu, J.-H. Ju, S.-W. Lee, Chonnam National Univ. (South Korea)
- 6423 0W **Light-induced bending and smart control of photochromic liquid crystal elastomers** [6423-31]
L. Jin, Y. Yan, Y. Huo, Fudan Univ. (China)

SESSION 10 ACTUATORS AND SENSORS II

- 6423 0X **Microstructure effects on proton conductivity in EVOH based ionic polymer-metal composites actuator** [6423-32]
L. Dai, Harbin Univ. of Commerce (China); L. Li, Y. Zhang, Harbin Univ. of Science and Technology (China)
- 6423 0Y **A valveless micropump driven by differential SMA actuator** [6423-33]
L. Xia, F. Wang, J. Lu, Shenyang Univ. of Technology (China)
- 6423 0Z **Application study on giant-magnetostrictive actuator for driving segmented mirrors of very large astronomical telescope** [6423-34]
B. Yang, Shanghai Jiao Tong Univ. (China); D. Yang, National Astronomical Observatories, Nanjing Institute of Astronomical Optics & Technology (China); G. Meng, Shanghai Jiao Tong Univ. (China); K. Chen, Y. Qi, National Astronomical Observatories, Nanjing Institute of Astronomical Optics & Technology (China); H. Zhou, Shanghai Jiao Tong Univ. (China); P. Hou, Northwestern Polytechnical Univ. (China)

SESSION 11 SMART MATERIAL APPLICATIONS I

- 6423 10 **Semi-active control of highway bridges with pounding effect by using magnetorheological dampers under earthquake excitations** [6423-35]
A. X. Guo, Zh. J. Li, H. Li, Harbin Institute of Technology (China)
- 6423 11 **The dispersion of SWCNTs treated by coupling and dispersing agents in fiber reinforced polymer composites** [6423-36]
Y. Duan, L. Yuan, Y. Zhao, F. Guan, Beihang Univ. (China)

SESSION 12 NANOMATERIALS II

- 6423 12 **Highly conjugated polypyrrole on multiwalled carbon nanotube templates analyzed by Raman spectroscopy** [6423-37]
B. Chen, J. Li, L. Delzeit, NASA Ames Research Ctr. (USA); Q. Pei, SRI International (USA)

SESSION 13 SMART COMPOSITES

- 6423 13 **Evaluating damage in smart composite laminates using embedded EFPI strain sensors** [6423-38]
G. Zhou, Loughborough Univ. (United Kingdom); L. M. Sim, Singapore Institute of Manufacturing Technology (Singapore)

- 6423 14 **The high velocity impact loading on symmetrical and woven hybrid composite laminates** [6423-39]
M. M. Jin, M. Richardson, Z. Y. Zhang, Univ. of Portsmouth (United Kingdom)
- 6423 15 **Development of smart hybrid carbon fiber reinforced polymers** [6423-40]
C. Q. Yang, Southeast Univ. (China); Z. S. Wu, Southeast Univ. (China) and Ibaraki Univ. (Japan)
- 6423 16 **Feasibility on fiber orientation detection on unidirectional CFRP composite laminates using nondestructive evaluation techniques** [6423-41]
I.-Y. Yang, J.-H. Kim, Chosun Univ. (South Korea); C.-S. Cha, Donggang College (South Korea); K.-S. Lee, Chosun Univ. (South Korea); D. K. Hsu, Iowa State Univ. (USA); K.-H. Im, Woosuk Univ. (South Korea)
- 6423 17 **I-V characteristic and mechanism of carbon black filled epoxy resin matrix composites** [6423-42]
X. Ji, H. Li, J. Ou, Harbin Institute of Technology (China)

SESSION 14 MATERIAL CHARACTERISTICS I

- 6423 18 **Phase change materials at the cold/hot sides of thermoelectric cooler for temperature control** [6423-43]
X. Wang, J. Xu, F. Zhang, Beihang Univ. (China); S. Du, Harbin Institute of Technology (China)
- 6423 19 **Effect of molding condition on mechanical properties during joining of GMT-sheet** [6423-44]
J.-W. Kim, D.-G. Lee, Chosun Univ. (South Korea)
- 6423 1A **Gas sensing properties of nanocrystalline metal oxide powders prepared by sol-gel method** [6423-45]
M. Nasser, Teacher Training Univ. (Iran); M. H. Majles Ara, Urumia Univ. (Iran); M. Souri, Teacher Training Univ. (Iran)
- 6423 1B **A study on cooling characteristics of clathrate compound as low temperature latent heat storage material** [6423-46]
C. O. Kim, J. H. Kim, N. K. Chung, Chosun Univ. (South Korea)

SESSION 15 MORPHING AND BIOLOGY-INSPIRED STRUCTURES

- 6423 1C **Adaptive structures for fixed and rotary wing aircraft** [6423-47]
W. Martin, P. Jänker, M. Siemetzki, T. Lorkowski, B. Grohmann, R. Maier, C. Maucher, EADS Deutschland GmbH (Germany); V. Klöppel, B. Enenkl, D. Roth, Eurocopter Deutschland (Germany); H. Hansen, Airbus Deutschland (Germany)
- 6423 1D **Investigation on adaptive wing structure based on shape memory polymer composite hinge** [6423-48]
Y. Yu, Harbin Institute of Technology (China) and Heilongjiang Institute of Science and Technology (China); X. Li, W. Zhang, Hafei Aviation Industry Co., Ltd. (China); J. Leng, Harbin Institute of Technology (China)

- 6423 1E **Wing chamber control architectures based on SMA: numerical investigations** [6423-49]
S. Barbarino, Univ. of Naples Federico II (Italy); S. Ameduri, Italian Aerospace Research Ctr. (Italy); R. Pecora, Univ. of Naples Federico II (Italy)

SESSION 16 NOVEL SENSORS

- 6423 1F **Self-sensing composites: in-situ cure monitoring** [6423-50]
L. Wang, S. Malik, D. Harris, G. F. Fernando, Univ. of Birmingham (United Kingdom)
- 6423 1G **The electric-field analysis and design of the interferential voltage transducer** [6423-51]
W. Bi, F. Liu, Y. Pan, J. Wang, Yanshan Univ. (China)
- 6423 1H **Optical fiber biosensor based on multiple total internal reflections in heterodyne interferometry** [6423-52]
S.-F. Wang, J.-S. Chiu, M.-J. Wang, Ching Yun Univ. (Taiwan)
- 6423 1I **DNA electrochemical biosensor of methylene blue as the hybridization indicator** [6423-53]
J. Zhang, Tianjin Polytechnic Univ. (China); W. Tong, Medical College of Chinese People's Armed Police Force (China); Z. Dai, S. Xu, N. Guo, X. Wang, Tianjin Polytechnic Univ. (China)
- 6423 1J **PNIPAm/PVA thermo-sensitive fibers** [6423-54]
X. Feng, L. Chen, L. L. Ju, Y. P. Zhao, Tianjin Polytechnic Univ. (China)

SESSION 17 MAGNETIC MATERIALS

- 6423 1K **Magnetostriction and hysteresis of $(\text{Tb}_{0.36}\text{Dy}_{0.64})_{1-x}\text{Ho}_x\text{Fe}_{1.95}$ alloys** [6423-55]
H. Zhang, C. Jiang, T. Zhang, H. Xu, Beijing Univ. of Aeronautics and Astronautics (China)
- 6423 1L **Influence of ambient temperature and AC magnetic field on damping behavior of Fe-13Cr-2.5Mo alloy** [6423-56]
Y. Xu, Shanghai Jiao Tong Univ. (China) and Sichuan Univ. (China); N. Li, B.-I. Shen, Sichuan Univ. (China); H.-x. Hua, Shanghai Jiao Tong Univ. (China)
- 6423 1M **Magnetostrictive and mechanical properties of Terfenol-D composites based on polymer** [6423-57]
C. Rodríguez, Univ. del País Vasco (Spain); J. M. Cuevas, Gaiker Technological Ctr. (Spain); I. Orue, J. L. Vilas, J. M. Barandiarán, M. L. Fernandez-Gubieda, L. M. Leon, Univ. del País Vasco (Spain)
- 6423 1N **Magnetoelasticity and Young's modulus of $\text{Tb}_{0.3}\text{Dy}_{0.7}\text{Fe}_2$ polycrystal** [6423-58]
B. W. Wang, Hebei Univ. of Technology (China) and International Ctr. for Materials Physics (China); W. M. Huang, Y. Sun, L. Weng, W. M. Zhao, S. Y. Cao, Hebei Univ. of Technology (China)

SESSION 18 FIBER OPTIC SENSOR APPLICATIONS I

- 6423 1O **Leakage detection of oil pipeline using distributed fiber optic sensor** [6423-59]
S. Shan, L. Wang, J. Zhou, Beijing Univ. of Technology (China)

- 6423 1P **Research on temperature sensor using light speed slowdown method in an inner interfering optical fiber** [6423-60]
D. Jin, G. Zheng, Y. Li, M. Li, Univ. of Shanghai for Science and Technology (China)
- 6423 1Q **Influence of polarization controller on the measurement of the precision position of the leakage using optical fiber sensors** [6423-61]
W. Sun, L. Hang, S. Hu, B. Wu, Y. Song, Beijing Univ. of Technology (China)
- 6423 1R **Acid-etched Fabry-Perot micro-cavities in optical fibres** [6423-62]
V. R. Machavaram, R. A. Badcock, G. F. Fernando, Univ. of Birmingham (United Kingdom)

SESSION 19 SHAPE MEMORY POLYMER

- 6423 1S **Water-responsive programmable shape memory polymer devices** [6423-63]
W. M. Huang, B. Yang, N. Liu, S. J. Phee, Nanyang Technological Univ. (Singapore)
- 6423 1T **A preliminary study on shape recovery speed of a styrene-based shape memory polymer composite actuated by different heating methods** [6423-64]
X. Wu, Harbin Institute of Technology (China); W. Zhang, Hafei Aviation Industry Co., Ltd. (China); Y. Liu, J. Leng, Harbin Institute of Technology (China)
- 6423 1U **Polyalkene based shape memory polymers** [6423-65]
J. Alonso, Univ. del País Vasco (Spain); J. M. Cuevas, J. R. Dios, Gaiker Technological Ctr. (Spain); J. L. Vilas, L. M. León, Univ. del País Vasco (Spain)
- 6423 1V **Electro-activate styrene-based shape memory polymer nanocomposite filled with multi-walled carbon nanotubes** [6423-66]
H. Lv, Y. Liu, J. Leng, S. Du, Harbin Institute of Technology (China)

SESSION 20 MR AND ER FLUID APPLICATIONS I

- 6423 1W **Residual vibration suppression of flexible arms using ER adaptive structures** [6423-67]
K. Wei, Hunan Institute of Engineering (China); G. Meng, Shanghai Jiao Tong Univ. (China); H. Tang, Y. Liu, Hunan Institute of Engineering (China)
- 6423 1X **Properties of clutch using thixotropic MR fluid with surfactants** [6423-68]
S. Takata, K. Hosoo, Y. Inoue, R. Hanaoka, T. Fukami, K. Shima, Kanazawa Institute of Technology (Japan)
- 6423 1Y **Application of magnetorheological fluid squeeze film dampers in ultrahigh speed grinding** [6423-69]
T. Yu, Y. Gong, S. Liang, W. Wang, Northeastern Univ. (China)

Part Two

SESSION 21 NANOCOMPOSITES

- 6423 1Z **Reactive nano-epoxy matrix and the UHMWPE fiber composites for cosmic radiation shielding** [6423-70]
W. H. Zhong, North Dakota State Univ. (USA); J. Miller, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab. (USA)
- 6423 20 **Preparation and capacitance behavior of nickel oxide-titania nanocomposite** [6423-71]
Y. Xie, C. Huang, L. Zhou, H. Huang, J. Lu, The Hong Kong Polytechnic Univ. (Hong Kong China)
- 6423 21 **Electroactive response of mesoporous silica and its nanocomposites with conducting polymers** [6423-72]
F. F. Fang, H. J. Choi, W. S. Ahn, Inha Univ. (South Korea)
- 6423 22 **Molecular mechanics simulation on the nanoindentation on POSS nanocomposite** [6423-73]
F. Zeng, Y. Sun, Y. Zhou, J. Li, Harbin Institute of Technology (China)

SESSION 22 PIEZOELECTRIC MATERIALS II

- 6423 23 **Effective properties of 1-3 piezoelectric composites: effect of polarization orientation** [6423-74]
C. N. Della, D. Shu, Nanyang Technological Univ. (Singapore)
- 6423 24 **Motion characteristics of a rotary piezo impact drive mechanism** [6423-75]
N. Jiang, Institute of Electrical Engineering (China) and Graduate Univ. of Chinese Academy of Sciences (China); J. Liu, Institute of Electrical Engineering (China); T. Tao, Institute of Electrical Engineering (China) and Graduate Univ. of Chinese Academy of Sciences (China); L. Han, Institute of Electrical Engineering (China)
- 6423 25 **Lead free BNT ceramics as driving element in traveling wave type ultrasonic motor** [6423-76]
Z. Yu, Zhejiang Univ. (China); K. C. Chan, The Hong Kong Polytechnic Univ. (Hong Kong China); J. Guo, Zhejiang Univ. (China); J. Y. Dai, The Hong Kong Polytechnic Univ. (Hong Kong China); B. Wang, Zhejiang Univ. (China); X. P. Jiang, K. W. Kwok, The Hong Kong Polytechnic Univ. (Hong Kong China)
- 6423 26 **Piezoelectricity in PANI filled Nylon 11** [6423-77]
S. A. Pande, G. H. Raison College of Engineering (India); D. S. Kelkar, Institute of Science Nagpur (India); D. R. Peshwe, Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology (India)

SESSION 23 FIBER OPTIC SENSOR APPLICATIONS II

- 6423 27 **Wavelength demodulation of fiber grating sensors using hybrid optical bistability** [6423-78]
G. Lv, Harbin Institute of Technology (China) and Heilongjiang Univ. (China); J. Ou, Harbin Institute of Technology (China) and Dalian Univ. of Technology (China); H. Wang, X. Jiang, S. Shang, Heilongjiang Univ. (China)
- 6423 28 **Fiber Michelson sensor signal processing by using optical bistable device in frequency domain** [6423-79]
G. Lv, Harbin Institute of Technology (China) and Heilongjiang Univ. (China); J. Ou, Harbin Institute of Technology (China) and Dalian Univ. of Technology (China); H. Wang, S. Shang, C. Yang, C. Li, H. Ye, Heilongjiang Univ. (China)
- 6423 29 **Monitoring the Como Railway Bridge based on dynamic FBG sensor system** [6423-80]
J. Zhang, Harbin Engineering Univ. (China) and Univ. of New South Wales (Australia); W. Sun, Harbin Engineering Univ. (China); G. D. Peng, Univ. of New South Wales (Australia); L. Yuan, Harbin Engineering Univ. (China)

SESSION 24 ANALYSIS AND MODELING

- 6423 2A **Swing characteristics on tail of tortoise-like flexible micro-robot** [6423-81]
L. Nie, X. Zhang, Beijing Univ. of Technology (China); R. Nie, Zhengzhou Institute of Aeronautical Industry Management (China); D. Li, Beijing Univ. of Technology (China); S. Guo, Kagawa Univ. (Japan)
- 6423 2B **Design and control of a topology optimal compliant microgripper** [6423-82]
S.-C. Huang, D.-Y. Lin, National Kaohsiung Univ. of Applied Sciences (Taiwan)
- 6423 2C **Kinematic control model for light weighting mechanism of excavator attached to rotary working device** [6423-83]
C. Lee, Jeonju Univ. (South Korea); S. Lee, Sung Kyun Kwan Univ. (South Korea); Y. Cho, Jeonju Univ. (South Korea); K. Im, Woosuk Univ. (South Korea)
- 6423 2D **Thermal and electrical performance of α -Si microbolometer focal plane arrays** [6423-84]
L. Sun, B. Chang, J. Zhang, Y. Qian, Y. Qiu, Nanjing Univ. of Science and Technology (China)

SESSION 25 FERROELECTRICS

- 6423 2E **Micro-Raman scattering and DC field dependent dielectric properties of $\text{BaZr}_x\text{Ti}_{1-x}\text{O}_3$ relaxor ferroelectric ceramics** [6423-85]
S. Ke, Northwestern Polytechnical Univ. (China) and The Hong Kong Polytechnic Univ. (Hong Kong China); H. Huang, The Hong Kong Polytechnic Univ. (Hong Kong China); H. Fan, Northwestern Polytechnical Univ. (China); H. L. W. Chan, L. M. Zhou, The Hong Kong Polytechnic Univ. (Hong Kong China)
- 6423 2F **A polyethylene glycol-assisted route to synthesize $\text{Pb}(\text{Ni}_{1/3}\text{Nb}_{2/3})\text{O}_3$ - PbTiO_3 with improved electric properties** [6423-86]
Y. Ye, S. Yu, H. Huang, L. Zhou, The Hong Kong Polytechnic Univ. (Hong Kong China)

- 6423 2G **Standing wave-type bi-directional linear moving ultrasonic motor using plates and weak links** [6423-87]
B. Wang, Zhejiang Univ. (China) and The Hong Kong Polytechnic Univ. (Hong Kong China); J. Y. Dai, The Hong Kong Polytechnic Univ. (Hong Kong China); J. Guo, Zhejiang Univ. (China)

SESSION 26 APPLICATION OF SMA II

- 6423 2H **Two-way shape memory coil springs: design, actuation, and stability** [6423-88]
X. Zu, Z. Wang, H. Yu, Univ. of Electronic Science and Technology of China (China)
- 6423 2I **Study on structure and control strategy of MSMA actuators** [6423-89]
F. Wang, J. Lu, L. Xia, Shenyang Univ. of Technology (China)
- 6423 2J **Frequency response analysis of shape memory alloy actuators** [6423-90]
Y. H. Teh, R. Featherstone, Australian National Univ. (Australia)
- 6423 2K **Ti-content dependence of shape memory characteristics of Ti-Ni-Cu alloy ribbons** [6423-91]
J.-M. Nam, H. Kim, G. Cho, Gyeongsang National Univ. (South Korea); Y. Kim, Keimyung Univ. (South Korea); T. Nam, Gyeongsang National Univ. (South Korea)
- 6423 2L **A novel TiNiNb shape memory alloy with high yield strength and high damping capacity** [6423-92]
F. Xiao, G. Ma, X. Zhao, H. Xu, Beijing Univ. of Aeronautics and Astronautics (China); H. Jiang, L. Rong, Institute of Metal Research (China)

SESSION 27 NANOMATERIAL APPLICATIONS

- 6423 2M **Study of formaldehyde photocatalytic degradation using nano TiO₂** [6423-93]
H. Yu, Ocean Univ. of China (China); K. Zhang, C. Rossi, LAAS-CNRS (France)
- 6423 2N **The influence of doping concentration on piezoresistive temperature characteristics of polysilicon nanofilms** [6423-94]
X. Liu, X. Lu, Harbin Institute of Technology (China); R. Chuai, Harbin Institute of Technology (China) and Shenyang Univ. of Technology (China); H. Pan, X. Wang, J. Li, Harbin Institute of Technology (China)
- 6423 2O **ZnO-coated Ga₂O₃ nanowires** [6423-95]
H. W. Kim, S. H. Shim, J. W. Lee, Inha Univ. (South Korea)

SESSION 28 FIBER OPTICAL SENSORS

- 6423 2P **Fiber optic sensor-based intelligent coal mines** [6423-96]
T. Liu, C. Wang, Y. Wei, Laser Institute of Shandong Academy of Sciences (China); J. Ni, Shandong Micro-Sensor Photonics, Ltd. (China); Y. Li, Q. Wang, Laser Institute of Shandong Academy of Sciences (China); L. Ma, Z. Shi, Shandong Micro-Sensor Photonics, Ltd. (China); X. Liu, Laser Institute of Shandong Academy of Sciences (China)

- 6423 2Q **Soil deformation measurement based on optic fiber sensor** [6423-97]
J. Yang, Z. Liu, A. Zhou, L. Yuan, Harbin Engineering Univ. (China)
- 6423 2R **Portable D-type optical fiber sensor based on ATR effect in temperature detection** [6423-98]
P.-C. Chiu, M.-H. Chiu, M.-C. Wang, Y.-H. Kuo, C.-G. Wang, M.-T. Chen, C.-W. Yang,
National Formosa Univ. (Taiwan)
- 6423 2S **Fiber optic sensor design for chemical process and environmental monitoring** [6423-99]
R. S. Mahendran, D. Harris, L. Wang, V. R. Machavaram, R. Chen, S. N. Kukureka,
G. F. Fernando, Univ. of Birmingham (United Kingdom)

SESSION 29 STRUCTURAL HEALTH MONITORING II

- 6423 2T **Preparation and characterization of self-healing poly (urea-formaldehyde) microcapsules**
[6423-100]
H. Li, R. Wang, X. He, W. Liu, H. Hao, Harbin Institute of Technology (China)
- 6423 2U **A study on coating class damage degree by using cycle of gas turbine blade coating**
[6423-101]
C. J. Choi, J. Y. Kim, Chosun Univ. (South Korea)
- 6423 2V **Nature defect evaluation of laser welded thin plate using laser guide wave** [6423-102]
K. S. Song, J. Y. Kim, Chosun Univ. (South Korea)
- 6423 2W **Airborne ultrasonic inspection in carbon/carbon composite materials** [6423-103]
I.-Y. Yang, Chosun Univ. (South Korea); Y.-H. Kim, Mokpo National Univ. (South Korea);
J.-W. Park, Chosun Univ. (South Korea); D. K. Hsu, Iowa State Univ. (USA); S.-J. Song,
H.-J. Cho, Sungkyunkwan Univ. (South Korea); S.-K. Kim, Iksan National College (South
Korea); K.-H. Im, Woosuk Univ. (South Korea)

SESSION 30 SHAPE MEMORY ALLOYS

- 6423 2X **Damping capacity of TiNi-based shape memory alloys** [6423-104]
L. J. Rong, H. C. Jiang, S. W. Liu, Institute of Metal Research (China); X. Q. Zhao, Beijing Univ.
of Aeronautics and Astronautics (China)
- 6423 2Y **TEM study of pre-strain's effect on shape recovery character in an Fe-Mn-Si-Cr-Ni shape
memory alloy** [6423-105]
Z. Qiao, L. Li, D. Wang, Tianjin Univ. of Commerce (China); Z. Li, Jiaotong Office of Qinglong
County (China)
- 6423 2Z **Fretting behavior of NiTi shape memory alloy against long bone in the imitated human
physiological solution** [6423-106]
Y. Yin, Y. T. Xu, T. D. Xia, Lanzhou Univ. of Technology (China); G. Z. Da, Lanzhou Seemine
Shape Memory Alloy Co. Ltd. (China)

- 6423 30 **Transformation behavior and shape memory characteristics of Ti-(45-x)Ni-5Cu-xV alloys** [6423-107]
J.-Y. Choi, Gyeongsang National Univ. (South Korea); E. Choi, Hongik Univ. (South Korea); B.-S. Cho, Inje Univ. (South Korea); Y. Chung, Chung-Ang Univ. (South Korea); T. Nam, Gyeongsang National Univ. (South Korea)

SESSION 31 MR AND ER FLUID APPLICATIONS II

- 6423 31 **Tactile display based on smart fluids** [6423-108]
Y. J. Liu, Harbin Institute of Technology (China); R. I. Davidson, P. M. Taylor, Univ. of Newcastle upon Tyne (United Kingdom)
- 6423 32 **Multiobjective evolutionary optimization design of vehicle magnetorheological fluid damper** [6423-109]
Q. Zhao, Y. Wang, Northeast Forestry Univ. (China); F. Gao, Harbin Institute of Technology (China)
- 6423 33 **Experimental study of response time of magnetorheological fluid damper** [6423-110]
X. C. Guan, P. F. Guo, C. F. Bian, Harbin Institute of Technology (China); J. P. Ou, Harbin Institute of Technology (China) and Dalian Univ. of Technology (China)
- 6423 34 **Experimental investigation of dielectric properties on electrorheological fluids** [6423-111]
Y. Sun, M. Thomas, J. Masounave, École de Technologie Supérieure (Canada)

SESSION 32 SMART MATERIAL APPLICATIONS II

- 6423 35 **Design, manufacture, and evaluation of bending behaviour of composite beams embedded with SMA wires** [6423-112]
G. Zhou, Loughborough Univ. (United Kingdom)
- 6423 36 **Analysis and design for the thermo-smart structure of composite with TEC** [6423-113]
Z.-M. Deng, X.-L. Cheng, X.-Q. Wang, Beijing Univ. of Aeronautics and Astronautics (China)
- 6423 37 **Synthesis and characterization of melamine-urea-formaldehyde microcapsules containing ENB-based self-healing agents** [6423-114]
X. Liu, Kumoh National Institute of Technology (South Korea); X. Sheng, Iowa State Univ. (USA); J. K. Lee, Kumoh National Institute of Technology (South Korea); M. R. Kessler, Iowa State Univ. (USA)

SESSION 33 PHOTONICS

- 6423 38 **Optical response property of photo-heat sensitive microcapsule** [6423-115]
X. Li, N. Zhang, W. Lai, S. Sun, W. Wang, Hebei Univ. (China)

SESSION 34 MATERIAL CHARACTERISTICS II

- 6423 39 **Microstructure and superelasticity of NiS/TiNi composite electrode** [6423-116]
H. Kim, G. Cho, K. Kim, K. Cho, Gyeongsang National Univ. (South Korea); Y. Liu, Univ. of Western Australia (Australia); T. Nam, Gyeongsang National Univ. (South Korea)
- 6423 3A **The influence of Ca/P ratio on the properties of hydroxyapatite bioceramics** [6423-117]
S. Ramesh, Univ. Tenaga Nasional (Malaysia); C. Y. Tan, M. Hamdi, Univ. Malaya (Malaysia); I. Sopyan, International Islamic Univ. Malaysia (Malaysia); W. D. Teng, SIRIM Berhad (Malaysia)
- 6423 3B **Investigation on addition of TiB₂ on sintering behavior and mechanical properties of B₄C** [6423-118]
H. Abdizadeh, Univ. of Tehran (Iran); H. R. Baharvandi, Univ. of Malek-Ashtar (Iran); A. M. Hadian, Univ. of Tehran (Iran); N. Ehsani, Univ. of Malek-Ashtar (Iran)
- 6423 3C **Mechanical properties of Ti₅₀Ni_{50-x}Cu_x(x=20, 25) shape memory alloy strips produced by melt overflow** [6423-119]
Y. Kim, Keimyung Univ. (South Korea); T. Nam, Gyeongsang National Univ. (South Korea)
- 6423 3D **Bioactive porous ceramics via polymeric sponge method: the effect of preparation conditions on physical properties** [6423-120]
I. Sopyan, International Islamic Univ. Malaysia (Malaysia); J. Kaur, Malaysia Univ. of Science and Technology (Malaysia); S. Ramesh, Univ. Tenaga Nasional (Malaysia); M. Hamdi, Univ. Malaya (Malaysia)

POSTER SESSION I

- 6423 3E **Design and characteristics of piezoelectric actuator with single neuron adaptive PID controller for the grating tiling** [6423-121]
B. Wang, Shanghai Institute of Optics and Fine Mechanics (China) and Graduate School of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (China); Y. Wang, J. Zu, J. Zhu, Shanghai Institute of Optics and Fine Mechanics (China)
- 6423 3F **Research of the high performance low temperature vortex street flowmeter** [6423-122]
F. Gao, Y. Chen, Z. Zhang, W. Geng, Beijing Univ. of Aeronautics and Astronautics (China)
- 6423 3G **Stable reliability analysis of truss structure affixed piezoelectric patches on the surface** [6423-123]
H. An, W.-g. An, D. Zhang, Harbin Engineering Univ. (China)
- 6423 3H **Semi-active control of curved bridge using piezoelectric friction dampers under multi-component multi-support earthquake** [6423-124]
W. Quan, H. Li, Dalian Univ. of Technology (China)
- 6423 3I **Shape memory effect and magnetic properties of Co-Fe ferromagnetic shape memory alloys** [6423-125]
Y. Ma, S. Yang, Y. Deng, C. Wang, X. Liu, Xiamen Univ. (China)
- 6423 3J **Simulation and design of composite vibration isolator for spacecrafts** [6423-126]
H. Li, Z. Chen, Y. Jiao, M. Li, B. Fang, Harbin Institute of Technology (China)

- 6423 3K **Static analysis of functionally graded piezoelectric annular sectorial plates** [6423-127]
G. J. Nie, Z. Zhong, Tongji Univ. (China)
- 6423 3L **Internal friction of a new ingredient heterogeneous shape memory composite** [6423-128]
T. Xing, Y. Zheng, L. Cui, China Univ. of Petroleum (China)
- 6423 3M **Thermoresponsive fibers containing n-stearyl acrylate groups for shape memory effect**
[6423-129]
L. Chen, X. Yu, X. Feng, Y. L. Han, M. Liu, T. X. Lin, Tianjin Polytechnic Univ. (China)
- 6423 3N **Effects of heat treatment on shape-setting and non-linear mechanical properties of Nitinol stent** [6423-130]
X. Liu, Y. Wang, M. Qi, D. Yang, Dalian Univ. of Technology (China)
- 6423 3O **Microstructure and shape recovery characteristics in a TIG-welded Fe-Mn-Si-Cr-Ni shape memory alloy** [6423-131]
Z. Qiao, L. Li, D. Wang, Tianjin Univ. of Commerce (China); Z. Li, Jiaotong Office of Qinglong County (China)
- 6423 3P **Tapering fiber gratings and its applications in SHM** [6423-132]
W. Sun, Z. Zhang, J. Zhang, Z. Zhang, T. Zhang, H. Jiang, Harbin Engineering Univ. (China)
- 6423 3Q **Design on waveguides coupler for integrated fiber optical gyroscope based on SOI wafer**
[6423-133]
L. Feng, H. Liu, G. Wang, H. Yu, Beijing Univ. of Aeronautics and Astronautics (China)
- 6423 3R **Study on the preparation and structural performance of polyaniline/PP conductive fiber**
[6423-134]
H. Zhang, Dalian Univ. of Technology (China) and Dalian Polytechnic Univ. (China);
L. Wang, Dalian Univ. of Technology (China)
- 6423 3S **Effect of highly birefringence fibers on fiber optic gyroscope** [6423-135]
Y. Li, X. Chen, Harbin Institute of Technology (China)
- 6423 3T **Investigation on simultaneous measurement of strain and temperature based on hybrid FBG/EPPI sensor** [6423-136]
W. Zhang, Shijiazhuang Railway Institute (China) and Institute of Semiconductors (China);
J. Dai, B. Sun, L. Yang, Y. Du, Shijiazhuang Railway Institute (China)
- 6423 3U **Three-dimensional braided composites internal strain by optical fiber sensors in two co-braiding ways** [6423-137]
X. Li, C. Zhao, Nanjing Univ. of Aeronautics and Astronautics (China)
- 6423 3V **Investigation of strain and temperature dependence of fluorescence lifetime of rare-earth doped fibers** [6423-138]
H. Jiang, W. Sun, C. Zhang, Harbin Engineering Univ. (China)
- 6423 3W **Research of FBG strain sensors based on light speed modulating method** [6423-139]
Y. Li, M. Li, G. Zheng, S. Zhuang, Univ. of Shanghai for Science and Technology (China)

- 6423 3X **Monitoring and controlling manufacturing for composite using fiber Bragg grating** [6423-140]
H. Zhao, B. Zhang, Z. Wu, D. Wang, F. Dai, Harbin Institute of Technology (China)
- 6423 3Y **FBG based intelligent sensors and structure for electrical power system** [6423-141]
Y. Yao, Wuhan Univ. (China), Central China Normal Univ. (China), and COPL, Laval Univ. (Canada); B. Yi, J. Xiao, Wuhan Univ. (China); Z. Li, COPL, Laval Univ. (Canada)
- 6423 3Z **Comparison of several strain transfer theory calculation methods of the embedded FBG strain sensors** [6423-142]
L. Sun, Shenyang Jianzhu Univ. (China) and Dalian Univ. of Technology (China); D. Liang, H. Zhang, Shenyang Jianzhu Univ. (China); H. Li, Dalian Univ. of Technology (China); X. Wang, Dalian Naval Academy (China)
- 6423 40 **Photoelectron characteristic of silver chloride microcrystals adsorbing dye excited by laser** [6423-143]
R. Zhang, J. Zhang, W. Lai, X. Dai, Y. Hu, L. Han, X. Li, Hebei Univ. (China)
- 6423 41 **Love waves in a graded half-space with a homogeneous layer** [6423-144]
H. Zhu, J. Han, Y. Zhang, L. Zhang, B. Gai, Harbin Institute of Technology (China)
- 6423 42 **Experimental investigation of compressive damage mechanisms on 3D braided composites by acoustic emission** [6423-145]
S. Yan, L.-z. Wu, Y. Sun, S. Du, Harbin Institute of Technology (China)

Part Three

- 6423 43 **Reliability analysis of electric breakdown for piezoelectric ceramic** [6423-146]
B. Wang, W. An, Harbin Engineering Univ. (China)
- 6423 44 **Spectral finite element modeling of beams treated with active constrained layer damping with consideration of thickness deformation** [6423-147]
M. Wang, G. Meng, Shanghai Jiao Tong Univ. (China)
- 6423 45 **Characteristics of bending according to stacking sequence for hybrid circular members** [6423-148]
J. H. Kim, Y. J. Yang, Chosun Univ. (South Korea); K. H. Im, Woosuk Univ. (South Korea); I. Y. Yang, J. H. Kim, Chosun Univ. (South Korea)
- 6423 46 **Crashworthiness of aluminum/CFRP hybrid member with various stacking conditions** [6423-149]
K. S. Lee, W. C. Hwang, I. Y. Yang, Chosun Univ. (South Korea)
- 6423 47 **Development of Stewart platforms for active vibration isolation and precision pointing** [6423-150]
L. Liu, B. Wang, Harbin Institute of Technology (China)

- 6423 48 **Rheokinetic evaluation of self-healing agents polymerized by Grubbs catalyst embedded in various thermosetting systems** [6423-151]
X. Liu, Kumoh National Institute of Technology (South Korea); X. Sheng, Iowa State Univ. (USA); J. K. Lee, Kumoh National Institute of Technology (South Korea); M. R. Kessler, Iowa State Univ. (USA)
- 6423 49 **Experimental investigation of smart FRP-concrete composite beam with embedded FBG sensors** [6423-152]
Y. Wang, Q. Hao, Z. Zhou, Harbin Institute of Technology (China); J. Ou, Harbin Institute of Technology (China) and Dalian Univ. of Technology (China)
- 6423 4A **Uniformity design of magnetic field of magnetostrictive actuators generated by permanent magnet bias** [6423-153]
X. Guan, P. Guo, Harbin Institute of Technology (China); J. Ou, Harbin Institute of Technology (China) and Dalian Univ. of Technology (China)
- 6423 4B **Actuator based on sulfonated comb copolymer of poly (ethylene-co-vinyl alcohol) grafted by poly (ethylene glycol)** [6423-154]
G. Gong, L. Li, Y. Zhang, Harbin Univ. of Science and Technology (China)
- 6423 4C **The method and simulation of the three-dimensional colloidal crystal growth on the end face of optical fiber** [6423-155]
H. Yan, M. Wang, Y. Ge, X. Chen, Nanjing Normal Univ. (China)
- 6423 4D **Mechanical properties and morphology of organic silicon/polyurethane IPNs prepared by sol-gel method** [6423-156]
D. Y. Tang, Harbin Institute of Technology (China); Y. J. Qiao, Harbin Engineering Univ. (China); Y. F. Zhang, Harbin Institute of Technology (China)
- 6423 4E **Granularity and penetrability property of microcapsule synthesized with interfacial polymerization technique** [6423-157]
W. Lai, X. Li, N. Zhang, S. Sun, Hebei Univ. (China)
- 6423 4F **Actuators based on polyurethanes with different types of polyol** [6423-158]
H.-O. Lim, G. M. Bark, N.-J. Jo, Pusan National Univ. (South Korea)
- 6423 4G **Tensile test of membrane materials using digital image correlation method** [6423-159]
W. Sun, E. Dong, M. Xu, B. Luo, X. He, Southeast Univ. (China)
- 6423 4H **Preparation, structure, and properties of $\text{Bi}(\text{Mg}_{1/2}\text{Ti}_{1/2})\text{-PbTiO}_3$ ceramics and Mn-doping effect** [6423-160]
S. Yu, Y. Ye, H. Huang, L. Zhou, The Hong Kong Polytechnic Univ. (Hong Kong China); Z. Wang, Harbin Engineering Univ. (China)

POSTER SESSION II

- 6423 4I **Investigation on dynamic properties of Terfenol-D actuators** [6423-161]
W. Huang, B. Wang, Y. Sun, L. Weng, W. Zhao, Hebei Univ. of Technology (China)
- 6423 4J **The symplectic method of electric and elastic problems** [6423-162]
W. Bian, B. Jia, Harbin Institute of Technology (China); B. Wang, Sun Yat-Sen Univ. (China)

- 6423 4K **Condition health monitoring of composite wound pressure vessels using fiber Bragg gratings** [6423-163]
X. Zhang, Harbin Institute of Technology (China) and Shanghai Jiao Tong Univ. (China); B. Zhang, Z. Wu, Harbin Institute of Technology (China)
- 6423 4L **Application of acoustic emission technique in diagnosis of early rolling bearing faults** [6423-164]
R. Hao, Tsinghua Univ. (China) and Shijiazhuang Railway Institute (China); W. Liu, F. Chu, Tsinghua Univ. (China)
- 6423 4M **Research on a new SMA self-adaptive damper** [6423-165]
X. Huang, L. Liao, Chongqing Institute of Technology (China); J. Ding, Y. Yang, Chongqing Institute of Technology (China) and Chonnam National Univ. (South Korea)
- 6423 4N **Oxidation resistance of Co-Ni-xNiFe₂O₄ as potential inert anodes** [6423-166]
X. Qian, M. Zhang, Harbin Institute of Technology (China); C. Zhu, Harbin Normal Univ. (China); X. He, Harbin Institute of Technology (China)
- 6423 4O **A study on self-assembled activation by Pd/Sn colloids** [6423-167]
G. Wang, Harbin Engineering Univ. (China); N. Li, Harbin Institute of Technology (China); G. Dong, Harbin Engineering Univ. (China)
- 6423 4P **Research on magnetic intensity sensor using light speed modulating method in an inner interfering optical fiber** [6423-168]
Y. Li, M. Li, G. Zheng, S. Zhuang, Univ. of Shanghai for Science and Technology (China)
- 6423 4Q **Hysteresis analysis and reduction of giant magnetostrictive materials and their actuators** [6423-169]
T. Zhang, H. Zhang, C. Jiang, Beijing Univ. of Aeronautics and Astronautics (China)
- 6423 4R **Preparation and magnetic properties of highly ordered Co/Ag alloy nanowire arrays** [6423-170]
Y. Mi, J. Zhao, X. Liu, J. Tao, C. Sun, R. Xu, Y. Li, Hebei Univ. of Technology (China)
- 6423 4S **Transient thermal simulation of uncooled microbolometer detectors and their performance analysis** [6423-171]
J. Zhang, L. Sun, B. Chang, Y. Qian, Y. Qiu, S. Tian, Nanjing Univ. of Science & Technology (China)
- 6423 4T **Study on direct laser fabrication of Nd:YAG** [6423-172]
G. Chen, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China) and Jiangnan Univ. (China); Z. Xiong, Y. Lu, X. Zeng, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China)
- 6423 4U **Crystal growth of Fe₈₁Ga₁₉ alloy and its magnetostrictive properties** [6423-173]
J. Liu, C. Jiang, Beijing Univ. of Aeronautics and Astronautics (China)
- 6423 4V **Study on mechanical property of PI/SiO₂ nano-hybrid film** [6423-174]
M. Zhang, Y. Niu, Y. Fan, T. Dong, S. Zeng, Harbin Univ. of Science and Technology (China)

- 6423 4W **Fabrication and mechanical properties of Sialon-Si₃N₄O nanocomposite** [6423-175]
J. Luo, Yanshan Univ. (China) and State Key Lab. of Metastable Materials Science and Technology (China); Q. Zhang, Yanshan Univ. (China); K. Zhang, Harbin Institute of Technology (China)
- 6423 4X **Preparation and theoretical study of functionalized single-wall carbon nanotubes used for water treatment** [6423-176]
W. Qin, X. Li, Y. Yuan, J. Qi, L. Qiang, Harbin Institute of Technology (China)
- 6423 4Y **Analysis of the characteristics of photonic crystal fibers used in liquid sensors** [6423-177]
C. Guan, L. Yuan, Harbin Engineering Univ. (China)
- 6423 4Z **Effect of nano-SiO₂ on bismaleimide composite** [6423-178]
D. Geng, Wuhan Univ. of Technology (China) and Aerospace Research Institute of Materials and Processing Technology (China); L. Zeng, Wuhan Univ. of Technology (China); Y. Li, Q. Fu, Aerospace Research Institute of Materials and Processing Technology (China); B. Hu, Wuhan Univ. of Technology (China)
- 6423 50 **Investigation of intensity and spectrum of silicon nanowires by ESR** [6423-179]
L. Wang, Beijing Univ. of Technology (China) and Australian National Univ. (Australia); H. Zhang, Xi'an Jiaotong Univ. (China); R. Wang, Australian National Univ. (Australia)
- 6423 51 **Response of mode II interlaminar fracture toughness of composite laminates with carbon nanotubes interlayer** [6423-180]
L. Liu, Y. M. Liang, G. Y. Xu, Tongji Univ. (China)
- 6423 52 **The optical limiting properties of carbon and platinum nanocomposite with conversion characteristic from reverse saturable absorption to saturable absorption** [6423-181]
Q. Chang, Heilongjiang Univ. (China) and Harbin Institute of Technology (China); C. Chang, H. Ye, Heilongjiang Univ. (China); G. Yin, Y. Wang, X. Zhang, Y. Song, Harbin Institute of Technology (China)
- 6423 53 **The realignment of carbon nanotubes in polymer/CNT composites by mechanical stretching method** [6423-182]
J. Dai, Q. Wang, W. Li, Z. Wei, J. Jiang, Lanzhou Univ. of Technology (China)
- 6423 54 **Preparation of ZrO₂/nano-TiO₂ composite powder by sol-gel method** [6423-183]
H. R. Baharvandi, Malek-Ashtar Univ. of Technology (Iran); E. Mohammadi, H. Abdizadeh, A. M. Hadian, Univ. of Tehran (Iran); N. Ehsani, Malek-Ashtar Univ. of Technology (Iran)
- 6423 55 **Comparing addition of ZrO₂ particles in micron and nano scale on microstructure and mechanical behavior of aluminum-matrix composites produced by vortex route** [6423-184]
M. A. Baghchesara, M. Karimi, Azad Univ. of South Tehran (Iran); H. Abdizadeh, Univ. of Tehran (Iran); H. R. Baharvandi, Malek-Ashtar Univ. of Technology (Iran)
- 6423 56 **Basic properties and application of shape memory polymer composite to deployable hinge for solar arrays** [6423-185]
X. Wang, Harbin Institute of Technology (China); W. Zhang, Hafei Aviation Industry Co., Ltd. (China); X. Lan, Y. Liu, J. Leng, Harbin Institute of Technology (China)

- 6423 57 **Fluorescence resonance energy transfer between CdTe semiconductor nanocrystals donors and gold nanoparticles labeled DNA acceptors** [6423-186]
Z. Dai, J. Zhang, S. Xu, N. Guo, Y. Bu, Q. Dong, Tianjin Polytechnic Univ. (China)
- 6423 58 **Study on the neotype zirconia's implant coated nanometer hydroxyapatite ceramics** [6423-187]
J. W. Zhu, D. W. Yang, Harbin Institute of Technology (China)
- 6423 59 **Design and simulation of MEMS silicon micro-cantilever resonant sensor** [6423-188]
C. Qiu, Heilongjiang Univ. (China) and Beijing Institute of Technology (China); D. Bu, W. Qu, Heilongjiang Univ. (China); M. Cao, Beijing Institute of Technology (China)
- 6423 5A **Structure mechanism of MEMS security stronglink with multi-try function** [6423-189]
S. Li, W. Chen, W. Zhang, Q. Xiao, S. Tan, M. Feng, Shanghai Jiao Tong Univ. (China)
- 6423 5B **Microstructures and mechanical properties of large-scale $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/\text{ZrO}_2(\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3)$ self-growing ceramic plates prepared by combustion synthesis under high gravity** [6423-190]
Z. Zhao, L. Zhang, S. Zhang, C. Pan, J. Zhang, Y. Song, H. Zhu, Shijiazhuang Mechanical Engineering College (China)
- 6423 5C **Synthesis and characterization of P(AAm-co-AAAB) photoresponsive copolymer and hydrogels** [6423-191]
Y. P. Zhao, L. Chen, Y. X. Zhang, X. Feng, Z. J. Wang, Tianjin Polytechnic Univ. (China)
- 6423 5D **Study on the electromagnetic properties of mwcnts/gf/epoxy composites** [6423-192]
Y. Zhao, L. Yuan, Y. Duan, Beihang Univ. (China)
- 6423 5E **Synthesis and characterization of nano-scale terbium-benzoic acid luminescent complex** [6423-193]
Z. Cui, H. Ren, Changchun Institute of Technology (China); F. Chen, Key Lab. of Rare Earth Chemistry and Physics (China); G. Liu, Changchun Univ. of Science and Technology (China); G. Hong, Key Lab. of Rare Earth Chemistry and Physics (China)
- 6423 5F **Synthesis and characterization of water soluble CdTe and CdTe/CdS core-shell quantum dots for biosensing applications** [6423-194]
S. Xu, J. Zhang, Tianjin Polytechnic Univ. (China); C. Liu, Harbin Institute of Technology (China); X. Song, Tianjin Polytechnic Univ. (China)
- 6423 5G **Study on micro-hardness of electroless composite plating of Ni-P with SiC nano-particles** [6423-195]
Y. Sun, Northeast Agricultural Univ. (China) and Heilongjiang Agriculture Polytechnic Univ. (China); Z. Zhang, Northeast Agricultural Univ. (China); J. Li, LuoDing Polytechnic Univ. (China); D. Xu, Northeast Agricultural Univ. (China)
- 6423 5H **Wireless actuation characteristics and modal control effectiveness of segmented photostrictive actuators** [6423-196]
H.-H. Yue, G.-L. Sun, Z.-Q. Deng, Harbin Institute of Technology (China); H.-S. Tzou, Univ. of Kentucky (USA)

- 6423 5I **Photonic superlattice: candidate for multiple-channeled filters** [6423-197]
C. Zhang, Beijing Institute of Graphic Communication (China); D. Wang, Beijing Jiao Tong Univ. (China); A. Zhang, F. Liu, Beijing Institute of Graphic Communication (China)
- 6423 5J **Contributions of the nanoparticles and glass frit to conductivity in Pb-free silver paste** [6423-198]
S. H. Park, D. S. Seo, G. S. Yang, J. K. Lee, Chosun Univ. (South Korea)
- 6423 5K **Mechanical properties and microstructure of Al-matrix composites reinforced with B₄C produced by vortex method** [6423-199]
N. Ehsani, H. R. Baharvandi, Malek-Ashtar Univ. of Technology (Iran); H. Abdizadeh, A. Mazaheri, Univ. of Tehran (Iran)
- 6423 5L **Investigation of addition of B₄C particles coated by nano-TiB₂ on microstructure and mechanical behavior of Al-B₄C composites** [6423-200]
H. Abdizadeh, Univ. of Tehran (Iran); H. R. Baharvandi, Malek Ashtar Univ. of Technology (Iran); F. B. Jebelli, Univ. of Tehran (Iran); N. Ehsani, Malek Ashtar Univ. of Technology (Iran)
- 6423 5M **Microstructure and mechanical properties of pressureless sintered B₄C-C composite using phenolic resin** [6423-201]
A. Nikravan, H. R. Baharvandi, Malek Ashtar Univ. of Technology (Iran); F. B. Jebelli, H. Abdizadeh, Univ. of Tehran (Iran); N. Ehsani, Malek Ashtar Univ. of Technology (Iran)
- 6423 5N **F2-laser-based fabrication of Fabry-Perot cavities in fused silica and sapphire optical fibres** [6423-202]
V. R. Machavaram, R. A. Badcock, G. F. Fernando, Univ. of Birmingham (United Kingdom)
- 6423 5O **Hardness and tensile strength of zircon particles and TiB₂ reinforced Al-A356.1 alloy matrix composites: comparative study** [6423-203]
K. Shirvani Moghaddam, Azad Univ. of South Tehran (Iran); H. Abdizadeh, Univ. of Tehran (Iran); H. R. Baharvandi, N. Ehsani, Malek Ashtar Univ. of Technology (Iran); F. Abdi, Azad Univ. of South Tehran (Iran)
- 6423 5P **Generation and control of two way shape memory effect for SMA coil spring** [6423-204]
K. K. Jee, J. H. Han, Y. B. Kim, Korea Institute of Science and Technology (South Korea); W. Y. Jang, Chosun Univ. (South Korea)
- 6423 5Q **Catalytic hydrolysis of kalium borohydride using CoTiO₃/cordierite** [6423-205]
G. Dong, G. Wang, H. Han, X. Ru, Harbin Engineering Univ. (China)
- 6423 5R **Thermomechanical behavior of fiber reinforced shape memory polymer composite** [6423-206]
X. Lan, Y. Liu, J. Leng, S. Du, Harbin Institute of Technology (China)
- 6423 5S **Friction and wear resistance of the electroless Ni-P-CNTs composite coatings** [6423-207]
G. Zhao, H. Zhang, Z. Wang, Heilongjiang Institute of Science and Technology (China)

- 6423 5T **Shear horizontal wave propagation in two layered piezoelectric/piezomagnetic coupled plates** [6423-208]
G. Nie, Yanshan Univ. (China) and Shijiazhuang Railway Institute (China); J. Liu, Shijiazhuang Railway Institute (China); Z. An, Yanshan Univ. (China); X. Zhao, Shijiazhuang Railway Institute (China)
- 6423 5U **A novel high-sensitivity FBG pressure sensor** [6423-209]
Z. Yao, T. Fu, J. Leng, Harbin Institute of Technology (China)
- 6423 5V **Vibration and shape control of inflatable deployment structures** [6423-210]
M. Lu, Z. Tian, H. Tan, Harbin Institute of Technology (China)
- 6423 5W **A novel fiber optic concrete sensor based on EFPI** [6423-211]
W. Zhang, Shijiazhuang Railway Institute (China) and Institute of Semiconductors (China); J. Dai, B. Sun, Y. Du, Shijiazhuang Railway Institute (China)
- 6423 5X **Research on interdigitated electrodes piezoelectric fiber composites by FEM** [6423-212]
Y. Liu, Nanjing Univ. of Aeronautics and Astronautics (China); X. Shen, Nanjing Univ. of Aeronautics and Astronautics (China) and Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (South Korea); D. Zhao, J. Qiu, Nanjing Univ. of Aeronautics and Astronautics (China)
- 6423 5Y **Microstructure and mechanical properties of Al-nano ZrO₂ composites produced by casting route** [6423-213]
M. Karimi, Islamic Azad Univ. (Iran); H. R. Baharvandi, Malek Ashtar Univ. of Technology (Iran); H. Abdizadeh, B. Pak Beyrami, M. A. Mobarhan Bonab, Univ. of Tehran (Iran))
- 6423 60 **Shape memory polymer networks from styrene copolymer** [6423-215]
D. Zhang, Harbin Institute of Technology (China) and Northeast Forestry Univ. (China); X. Wang, W. Zhang, Hafei Aviation Industry Co., Ltd. (China); Y. Liu, J. Leng, Harbin Institute of Technology (China)
- 6423 61 **Some conception on the application of micro-electromechanical systems sensor and actuator (MEMS) to near space airship** [6423-216]
D. Zhang, D. Duan, J. Chen, Shanghai Jiao Tong Univ. (China)
- 6423 62 **Dynamic characteristics and modeling of a new magnetorheological damper for broadband vibration control** [6423-217]
F. Tu, Z. Chen, H. Li, Y. Jiao, B. Fang, Harbin Institute of Technology (China)
- 6423 63 **Strain sensing behavior of textile structures made of stainless steel continuous filament yarns under uni-axial tensile loading** [6423-218]
B. Yang, Zhejiang Univ. of Science and Technology (China) and The Hong Kong Polytechnic Univ. (Hong Kong China); X. Tao, The Hong Kong Polytechnic Univ. (Hong Kong China); J. Cai, Zhejiang Univ. of Science and Technology (China); T. Yu, Hong Kong Univ. of Science and Technology (Hong Kong China)
- 6423 64 **Temperature memory effect of martensite and R-phase transformation in TiNi-based shape memory alloys** [6423-219]
H. J. Yu, Z. G. Wang, X. T. Zu, Univ. of Electronic Science and Technology of China (China); Y. Q. Fu, Univ. of Cambridge (United Kingdom)

- 6423 65 **Critical bending optical fiber sensor with serial structure for feedback control of flexible hinge stage** [6423-220]
J. Zhang, F. Long, S. Zhang, Xiamen Univ. (China)
- 6423 66 **The optimization of collapse energy absorption capacity for spot-welded members** [6423-221]
C. S. Cha, Dongkang College (South Korea); J. W. Park, H. K. Seo, I. Y. Yang, Chosun Univ. (South Korea)
- 6423 67 **Microstructure and properties of MoSi₂ intermetallic reinforced and toughened by carbon nanotube** [6423-222]
Y. Qiao, X. Zhang, Harbin Engineering Univ. (China); C. Hong, Harbin Institute of Technology (China); S. Fang, Harbin Engineering Univ. (China)

ADDITIONAL PAPERS

- 6423 68 **Investigation on mechanical properties and surfaces fracture of Al/ZrO₂ composite** [6423-223]
M. A. Baghchesara, Azad Univ. of South Tehran (Iran); H. R. Baharvandi, Malek Ashtar Univ. of Technology (Iran); H. Abdizadeh, Univ. of Tehran (Iran)
- 6423 69 **The effect of TiB₂ powder on microstructure and mechanical behavior of Al-TiB₂ metal matrix composites** [6423-224]
N. Ehsani, Malek Ashtar Univ. of Technology (Iran); F. Abdi, Azad Univ. of South Tehran (Iran); H. Abdizadeh, Univ. of Tehran (Iran); H. R. Baharvandi, Malek Ashtar Univ. of Technology (Iran)
- 6423 6A **The research and application of remote control and monitoring in smart structure** [6423-225]
Y.-H. Liu, J.-M. Xiong, R.-Y. Zhu, Hubei Univ. of Technology (China)

Author Index

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Kongjun Zhu, Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics (China)
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Vijay K. Varadan, University of Arkansas (USA)
Sen Han, Veeco Instruments (USA)
- 3 Films
Gang Zhou, Loughborough University (United Kingdom)
Yinong Liu, The University of Western Australia (Australia)
- 4 Structural Health Monitoring I
Gangbing Song, University of Houston (USA)
Limin Zhou, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (Hong Kong China)
- 5 Actuators and Sensors I
Kincho H. Law, Stanford University (USA)
Jaehwan Kim, Inha University (South Korea)

- 6 Applications of SMA I
Ji Su, NASA Langley Research Center (USA)
Jong Keun Lee, Kumoh National Institute of Technology (South Korea)
- 7 Nanomaterials I
Zhen Chen, University of Missouri (USA)
- 8 Luminescent Materials
Sulin Zhang, University of Arkansas (USA)
Dongguang Li, Edith Cowan University (Australia)
- 9 Membranes and Elastomers
Taher Saif, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (USA)
- 10 Actuators and Sensors II
Kincho H. Law, Stanford University (USA)
Jae-Hung Han, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (South Korea)
- 11 Smart Material Applications I
Hiroshi Asanuma, Chiba University (Japan)
Kintak Lau, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (Hong Kong China)
- 12 Nanomaterials II
W. I. Milne, University of Cambridge (UK)
Bin Chen, SETI Institute NASA Ames Research Center (USA)
- 13 Smart Composites
Russ Maguire, Boeing Commercial Airplane Company (USA)
Zaiwen Lin, Harbin FRP Institute (China)
- 14 Material Characteristics I
H. Baier, Institute of Lightweight Structures (Germany)
Jing Zhang, University of Alaska Fairbanks (USA)
- 15 Morphing and Biology-inspired Structures
Jae-Hung Han, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (South Korea)
Willi E. Martin, EADS Corporate Research Center (Germany)
- 16 Novel Sensors
Liwei Wang, University of Birmingham (United Kingdom)
Shinn-Fwu Wang, Ching Yun University (South Korea)

- 17 Magnetic Materials
 Limin Zhou, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (Hong Kong China)
 Chengbao Jiang, Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics
 (China)
- 18 Fiber Optic Sensor Applications I
 Wolfgang Ecke, Institute for Physical High Technology (Germany)
 Weihong Bi, Yanshan University (China)
- 19 Shape Memory Polymer
 Ji Su, NASA Langley Research Center (USA)
 W. M. Huang, Nanyang Technological University (Singapore)
- 20 MR and ER Fluid Applications I
 Lin Ye, The University of Sydney (Australia)
 Yu Qiao, University of California, San Diego (USA)
- 21 Nanocomposites
 WeiHong Zhong, North Dakota State University (USA)
 Zhen Chen, University of Missouri (USA)
- 22 Piezoelectric Materials II
 Dongwei Shu, Nanyang Technological University (Singapore)
 Peng Jin, Harbin Institute of Technology (China)
- 23 Fiber Optic Sensor Applications II
 Wolfgang Ecke, Institute for Physical High Technology (Germany)
 Libo Yuan, Harbin Engineering University (China)
- 24 Analysis and Modeling
 Taher Saif, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (USA)
 Yi Sun, Harbin Institute of Technology (China)
- 25 Ferroelectrics
 Wei Cai, Stanford University (USA)
- 26 Application of SMA II
 Xiaotao Zu, University of Electronic Science and Technology of China
 (China)
 Gang Zhou, Loughborough University (United Kingdom)
- 27 Nanomaterial Applications
 Y. F. Gao, University of Tennessee (USA)
 Kechao Zhou, Central South University (China)

- 28 Fiber Optical Sensors
Libo Yuan, Harbin Engineering University (China)
Tongyu Liu, Shandong Academy of Science (China)
- 29 Structural Health Monitoring II
Limin Zhou, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (Hong Kong China)
Hui Li, Harbin Institute of Technology (China)
- 30 Shape Memory Alloys
W. M. Huang, Nanyang Technological University (Singapore)
Lijian Rong, Institute of Metal Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences (China)
- 31 MR and ER Fluid Applications II
Yanju Liu, Harbin Institute of Technology (China)
Gangbing Song, University of Houston (USA)
- 32 Smart Material Applications II
Lin Ye, The University of Sydney (Australia)
Hiroshi Asanuma, Chiba University (Japan)
- 33 Photonics
I-Min Jiang, National Sun Yat-sen University (Taiwan, China)
Quan Li, Kent State University (USA)
- 34 Material Characteristics II
J. J. Ramsden, Cranfield University (United Kingdom)
Yinong Liu, University of Western Australia (Australia)
- NSF Special Session
Ken P. Chong, National Science Foundation (USA)
Max Yen, Southern Illinois University (USA)

Preface

The First International Conference on Smart Materials and Nanotechnology was successfully held 2–4 July in Harbin. This unique conference offered many opportunities to communicate with colleagues from a variety of disciplines in universities, companies, factories, and governments from all over the world. As a premier event, this conference promised great excitement, inspiration, and benefits. The conference is the first in what we hope will be a series that encompasses and bridges the rapidly evolving smart materials and the cutting edge nanotechnology for varied applications.

In the last decade, a wide range of novel smart materials have been produced for aerospace, transportation, telecommunications, and domestic applications. Meanwhile, nanotechnology is rapidly developing, permitting control of matter at the level of atoms and molecules that would form the building blocks of smart materials. Thus the combination of these two fields provides many advantages, realizes novel designs that could not be achieved in traditional engineering, and offers greater opportunities as well as challenges.

The conference deals with the integration of smart materials and nanotechnology for applications ranging from bioengineering to photonics, with emphasis on the application in aerospace engineering. It also addresses and predicts novel developments in this field. Discussed were various topics including shape-memory alloys and polymers; electro-active polymers; (EAPs); piezo-materials; electro- and magneto-restrictive materials and fluids; fiber optic sensors; MEMS; sensors and actuators; thermo-electric materials; electro-chromic, photo-chromic, fluorescent, and phosphorescent materials; nanocomposites, and others.

There were 7 plenary speakers and 27 keynote speakers who were selected to inform and inspire the attendees. In addition, 120 papers were presented in 35 oral sessions and 122 papers were presented in 2 poster sessions.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the cooperating organizations, the international program committee and every attendee, whose support, dedication, and cooperation make this event more exciting, inspiring and fruitful. We hope all of you benefit from this conference and look forward to seeing you again in 2009!

Shanyi Du

Chair

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