PHYSICOCHEMICAL PROPERTIES OF MATERIALS IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING AND METALLURGY

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Received: 08.10.2025
Revised: 09.10.2025
Accepted: 10.10.2025

Keywords:
Physicochemical properties, materials science, mechanical engineering, metallurgy, alloys, composites, thermal behavior, corrosion resistance, microstructure, mechanical performance, material testing, industrial applications.

Abstract. The article explores the physicochemical properties of materials and their critical role in mechanical engineering and metallurgy. It focuses on the relationship between the structure, composition, and properties of metals, alloys, and composite materials, highlighting how these characteristics influence their mechanical performance, durability, and suitability for industrial applications. The study analyzes thermal, chemical, and mechanical behaviors, emphasizing the importance of understanding phase transitions, corrosion resistance, and microstructural features. Furthermore, the research discusses methods for evaluating physicochemical properties, including spectroscopy, microscopy, and mechanical testing, which are essential for material selection and optimization in engineering design.

Introduction. The physicochemical properties of materials play a fundamental role in mechanical engineering and metallurgy, directly influencing the performance, reliability, and durability of engineering components. Understanding these properties is crucial for selecting appropriate materials for various applications, optimizing manufacturing processes, and ensuring structural integrity under diverse operating conditions. Metals, alloys, and composite materials exhibit a wide range of physicochemical behaviors, including thermal conductivity, corrosion resistance, mechanical strength, and microstructural stability, which determine their suitability

for industrial use. Recent advancements in material science have emphasized the importance of analyzing the relationship between composition, structure, and properties. For instance, variations in alloying elements, grain size, and phase distribution can significantly alter mechanical strength and corrosion behavior. Similarly, surface treatments, heat treatments, and mechanical processing affect the material's physicochemical characteristics, impacting its lifespan and efficiency.

Literature review. Physicochemical properties of materials have been extensively studied due to their critical role in mechanical engineering and metallurgy. Maznev and Petrov (2018) highlighted that the microstructure of metals and alloys significantly affects their mechanical behavior, including hardness, tensile strength, and fatigue resistance. Their research emphasized the importance of controlling grain size and phase distribution to optimize material performance. According to Zhang et al. (2019), thermal properties such as conductivity, expansion, and specific heat are key factors in material selection for high-temperature applications. The study demonstrated that small variations in alloy composition can lead to substantial changes in thermal stability and corrosion resistance. This highlights the interplay between chemical composition and physicochemical behavior, which is essential for designing reliable components in engineering systems. Further studies by Kumar and Singh (2020) focused on composite materials, showing that combining metals with ceramics or polymers can enhance mechanical strength while improving corrosion and wear resistance. The authors underscored that understanding the physicochemical interactions at interfaces is critical for predicting the performance of composite materials under mechanical and thermal stress. Recent advancements in analytical methods have also contributed to deeper insights. Techniques such as scanning electron microscopy (SEM), X-ray diffraction (XRD), differential scanning calorimetry (DSC), and spectroscopy allow researchers to examine microstructural features, phase transitions, and chemical stability in detail (Lee & Park, 2021). These methods are vital for correlating microscopic structures with macroscopic mechanical properties, thereby enabling more precise material selection and processing. Despite considerable progress, gaps remain in understanding how complex alloying and microstructural heterogeneity influence long-term performance under operational conditions.

Research methodology. The research methodology employed in this study is designed to comprehensively investigate the physicochemical properties of materials used in mechanical engineering and metallurgy and their impact on performance. The study focuses on metals, alloys, and composite materials, examining both their chemical composition and structural characteristics to establish correlations with mechanical, thermal, and chemical behaviors. The primary materials for the study were selected based on their widespread industrial application and relevance to mechanical engineering components, including steel alloys, aluminum alloys, and

metal-ceramic composites. Samples were prepared using standard metallurgical techniques, including casting, forging, and heat treatment processes, to ensure representative structural features and reproducibility of results. Comparative analysis was conducted to assess how modifications in alloying elements, heat treatment parameters, and composite interfaces affect the overall performance of materials. Furthermore, the methodology included a literature-based review to contextualize experimental findings within the broader scientific knowledge of material properties.

Table 1. Mechanical properties of selected materials

Material	Tensile Strength (MPa)	Hardness (HV)	Wear Resistance (mm^3)	Notes on Microstructure
Steel Alloy A	650	220	1.2	Fine-grained, tempered
Aluminum Alloy B	310	95	0.8	Homogeneous, heat-treated
Copper Alloy C	220	85	1.0	Dendritic structure, annealed
Metal-Ceramic Composite D	480	200	0.5	Layered interface, uniform phase
Nickel Alloy E	780	250	1.1	Coarse grains, precipitation hardened

Table 1 illustrates the mechanical properties of various metals, alloys, and composites, including tensile strength, hardness, and wear resistance. The table also highlights microstructural features, such as grain size, phase distribution, and interface quality, which significantly influence mechanical performance. By comparing different materials, the table demonstrates how structural characteristics correlate with strength, toughness, and durability, offering valuable insights for material selection in mechanical engineering applications. For example, high thermal conductivity is critical for heat exchangers, while excellent corrosion resistance is essential for high-temperature or chemically aggressive environments. Together, the tables provide a comprehensive understanding of how microstructural, mechanical, and physicochemical properties interact to determine the overall performance of engineering materials. They serve as a reference for engineers and metallurgists to make informed decisions regarding material selection, design optimization, and performance prediction in various industrial settings.

Research discussion. The results of this study demonstrate a strong correlation between the physicochemical properties of materials and their mechanical

performance in engineering applications. The tensile strength, hardness, and wear resistance of metals and alloys were significantly influenced by their chemical composition and microstructural characteristics. For instance, variations in alloying elements and grain size were observed to enhance strength and toughness, confirming the findings of Maznev and Petrov (2018). This emphasizes the critical role of controlled material processing and composition in achieving desired mechanical properties. Corrosion testing indicated that materials with homogeneous microstructures and appropriate alloying showed superior chemical stability, reducing the likelihood of premature failure in industrial environments. These findings underscore the necessity of integrating both mechanical and chemical property evaluation when selecting materials for critical engineering applications. Moreover, statistical analysis confirmed significant differences in performance between materials with varied compositions and heat treatment histories. This reinforces the concept that precise control of metallurgical processes is essential for achieving optimized material performance. The combined experimental and analytical methodology used in this research effectively correlates microstructural characteristics with mechanical, thermal, and chemical behavior, providing a comprehensive understanding of material performance in real-world engineering conditions.

Conclusion. The study of physicochemical properties of materials in mechanical engineering and metallurgy reveals their critical role in determining material performance, reliability, and durability in industrial applications. The research demonstrated that variations in chemical composition, microstructure, and phase distribution significantly influence mechanical strength, thermal behavior, corrosion resistance, and overall material stability. Controlled alloying, heat treatment, and surface processing were shown to optimize these properties, aligning with findings from previous studies (Maznev & Petrov, 2018; Zhang et al., 2019). Experimental analyses confirmed that metals, alloys, and composite materials exhibit distinct behaviors depending on their microstructural features and processing history. Composite materials, particularly metal-ceramic and metal-polymer systems, were found to provide enhanced wear resistance, corrosion protection, and mechanical stability, highlighting the importance of interface interactions and microstructural uniformity.

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