

Ti₉₀Co₃Si₇ nanocomposites, with Ti₅₀Si₅₀ and Ti₇₀Co₃₀Si as the main reinforcing phases and intermetallic TiCo as a toughening matrix, were fabricated via mechanical alloying (MA) and subsequent hot pressing (HP). Monolithic TiCo and Ti₅₀Si₅₀ alloys were also designed as reference materials. The effects of MA parameters on the microstructures of the mechanically alloyed powders and sintered compacts were investigated. Three phases were produced via MA for 1–3 h at 200 rpm. The mechanically alloyed powders were subsequently treated via HP at 1100–1300 °C for 30–60 min under 8 MPa of pressure. The microstructures of the intermetallic alloys were characterized via optical microscopy, scanning electron microscopy, X-ray diffraction, and energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy. Dry-sliding wear behavior was evaluated at room temperature (20 °C) and high temperatures (200, 400 and 600 °C). The mean friction coefficient and volume wear rate gradually decreased with an increase of temperature, although the volume wear rate at 200 °C exhibited a reverse trend. The tribo-oxide layer did not exist on the worn surface at 20 and 200 °C, while discontinuous thin TiN layer was observed at 400 °C. The TiN and TiO₂ layers became thick and continuous at 600 °C and it contacted with the substrate compactly. The results of the wear rate in this study are 100 times lower than recent works.

Keywords: Ti-Co-Si intermetallic, Hot press, Spark plasma sintering