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# Experimental investigation and optimization of pulse electrodeposition parameters for Ni-TiO<sub>2</sub> coating on Inconel 617 using TOPSIS technique

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The quality of nano coating and its strength are purely influenced by deposition parameters. Pulse electrodeposition is a promising technique for material coating. Inconel 617 is a widely used alloy in high temperature and aerospace applications. Considering wide range of its applications, study of micro hardness and surface roughness of Inconel 617 is essential. This research deals with optimization of coating parameters in pulse electrodeposition of Ni-TiO<sub>2</sub> on Inconel 617. Both, single and multi-objective optimization techniques are selected, with input design of L9 orthogonal array. Pulse frequency, duty cycle and current density are the input parameters. Micro hardness and surface roughness were determined from Coated Inconel 617. TOPSIS technique is adopted to improve micro hardness and surface roughness. Based on the experimental results, Micro hardness of 474 Hv and surface roughness of 0.412 µm are achieved with remarkable improvement in closeness coefficient value from 0.4475 to 0.913. SEM analysis is carried out to ensure the surface quality. Moreover EDAX and XRD test to identify the presence of coating material.

Keywords: Inconel 617, Ni-TiO<sub>2</sub> Coating, Pulse Electrodeposition, Surface roughness, Hardness and TOPSIS.

## Introduction

Electroplating is a common economic method adopted for nano-coating of metals. Improved tribological coating behavior is achieved through electro deposition method. In electroplating, rate of deposition is controlled by changing the voltage and current [1-3]. Compared to conventional coating, pulse electroplating offers high quality coating and improved surface structures and properties. Homogeneous material deposition with fine grain size is achieved in pulse electroplating due to high throwing power [4]. Inconel 617, an advanced super alloy, has excellent high temperature properties and finds application in thermal systems such as gas turbines and heat exchangers, where the alloy is subjected to the combined effects of corrosion, mechanical and thermal stresses [5-7]. It is a nickel based alloy which provides corrosion resistance because of chromium content and prevents corrosion at high temperature applications too [8]. Due to such wide range of applications in important areas, surface roughness study and micro hardness study of Inconel 716 needs further investigation for better performance.

Praveen et al. [9] coated Zn-Ni/TiO<sub>2</sub> on mild steel by sol-gel technique. Corrosion test was also carried out with 3.5% NaCl and the results showed improvement in micro hardness and corrosion resistance. Natrajan et

al. [10] investigated wear behavior of AISI 1022 CS nano coated with Ni-TiO<sub>2</sub> by pulse electro deposition method. Based on experimental study, 20 Hz frequency,  $0.2 \text{ A/cm}^2$  current density and 30% duty cycle were found to provide minimum wear rate on the specimen. ANOVA optimization technique was used for obtaining optimized results of wear resistance. The report revealed that the impact of pulse frequency on wear was 28.48% and that of current density on wear resistance being 29.95%. Shathishkumar et al. [11] performed an experiment to find the micro hardness and resistance to corrosion of Ni-SiC & Ni-MWCNT coatings done by pulse electrodepositing method. Experimental results showed improvement in micro hardness of coated specimens. The SiC (Silicon carbide) coating and MWCNT composite (Multi walled carbon Nano tube) coating showed maximum improvements of 91.6% and 168% respectively. Natrajan et al. [12] developed a numerical model to evaluate the characteristics of Ni-Sic nano composite coating on AISI 1022. GRA optimization technique was used to get the optimum parameters. Results revealed, 10 Hz frequency, 10% of duty cycle and 0.2 A/cm<sup>2</sup> current density as the optimum electroplating parameters.

Thieming et al. [13] performed an experiment to identify the effects of nickel titanium coating made by electro deposition method. Improved hardness of 390 Hv from 354 Hv was obtained when the current density was varied from 2 to 4  $A/dm^2$  in the nano coating process. At the same time, micro hardness was reduced to 375 Hv for a current density of 8  $A/dm^2$ . Praveen et

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al. [14] performed Ni-TiO<sub>2</sub> nano coating on Zinc by Solgel method. Experimental results revealed improvement of micro hardness and resistance to corrosion along with achievement of minimum wear loss. Adam khan et al. [15] carried out an experiment on Inconel 617 with plasma sprayed coating of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-TiO<sub>2</sub> and NiCr-Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> at 1,000 °C exclusively for gas turbine applications. Corrosion test results revealed enhanced corrosion resistance of Inconel 617 after coating. Birlik et al. [16] prepared Ni-TiO<sub>2</sub> nano composite coating with electrodeposition method. It was pointed that; size of nano particle and current density of nano coating have a huge impact on corrosion and mechanical properties. Rise in current density and small sized of nano particle significantly impact the mechanical property of the coated specimen. The Pulse electrodeposition of Ni-TiO<sub>2</sub> nanocomposite coating provided excellent anti-corrosion performance, higher microhardness and improved wear resistance [17-21.]

Study of past literature shows that, many research works were done on super alloy materials with particular focus on improving corrosion resistance. Given the various applications of Inconel 617 that include thermal and aerospace industry, study to enhance its micro hardness becomes crucial for better performance. Various nickel based nano composite combinations have been used in past work namely Ni-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Ni-TiO<sub>2</sub> and Ni-ZrO<sub>2</sub> [22-26]. It was evident that, Investigation on micro hardness and optimization of electrodeposition parameter for Inconel 617 coating was not done. This paper is focused on identifying the optimum parameters for performing pulse electro deposition of Ni-TiO<sub>2</sub> coating on Inconel 617. TOPSIS optimization method is adopted to find the optimal set of coating parameter of pulse electro deposition. Compared to other optimization techniques, TOPSIS is preferred due to its simplicity and quick prediction [27-32].

# **Materials and Methods**

Inconel 617 is used as a test specimen with the

composition of Ni 50.85%, Cr 22.7%, Co 10.85%, Mo 9.25%, others 6.35%. The mechanical properties of Inconel 617 are presented in Table 1. For electrodeposition, Inconel 617 specimen with dimensions of 10  $\times 10 \times 30$  mm was used. Wire cut EDM was used to cut the specimen. The top surface of the specimen is polished with Abrasive Paper (SiC grade: 80-2500) and also ultrasonic cleaning is carried out for a time duration of 15 min using acetone and finally substrate gets cleaned with distilled water under room temperature. TiO<sub>2</sub> particle size of 100 nm is used with concentration of 10 gl<sup>-1</sup>. The electrodeposition of Ni-TiO<sub>2</sub> is done from a typical Watts-type electrolyte with coating thickness of 10 Microns. Bath composition details of the electrodeposition is presented in Table 2. The experimental setup is shown in Fig. 1. Dynatronix (USA Make: Micro Star Pulse Series DPR 20-30-100) Pulse generator with input power 110-120 V AC Single Phase 50-60 Hz is used for performing the experiment.

 Table 1. Mechanical properties of Inconel 617

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Density	8.36 g/cm <sup>3</sup>
Melting range	1332-1380 °C
Hardness	172 HRB
Tensile strength	831 MPa
Yield strength	410 MPa
Modulus of Elasticity	211 GPa
Elongation at break	63%
Poisson's ratio	0.3

Table 2. Bath Compositions of electrodeposition

S.No	Electroplating bath composition	Value
1	Nickel Sulphate (NiSO <sub>4</sub> ·6H <sub>2</sub> O)(gl <sup>-1</sup> )	300
2	Nickel Chloride (NiCl <sub>2</sub> ·6H <sub>2</sub> O) (gl <sup>-1</sup> )	50
3	Boric Acid (H <sub>3</sub> BO <sub>3</sub> ) (gl <sup>-1</sup> )	30
4	Sodyumdodecyl sulfate n (SDS) (gl <sup>-1</sup> )	0.1
5	$TiO_2$ nanoparticle ( $d_m = 100nm$ ) ( $gl^{-1}$ )	10
6	Temperature	55 °C
7	PH	4
8	Plating time	11.502 min



Fig. 1. Experimental setup a) Pulse rectifier setup and b) Ultrasonic Cleaning setup.



a) Uncoated Specimen



b) Coated Specimen

Fig. 2. Inconel 617 specimen a) Before coating and b) After Coating.

Table 3. Experimental parameters and their levels

	-	^				
	Dorometer		Notation		Level	
	Falameter		Notation -	1	2	3
I	Frequency (I	Hz)	F	30	40	50
]	Duty cycle (	%)	D	30	40	50
Curre	nt density (	$A/Cm^2$ )	Ι	0.2	0.4	0.6
Table 4. Experimental results						
Trail	Frequency	Duty cyc	le Current de	nsity	MH	Ra
No	(Hz)	(%)	(A/Cm <sup>2</sup>	<sup>2</sup> )	(Hv)	(µm)
1	30	30	0.2		432	0.478
2	30	40	0.4		462.66	0.516
3	30	50	0.6		484.33	0.553
4	40	30	0.4		449	0.446
5	40	40	0.6		469	0.493
6	40	50	0.2		463.33	0.508
7	50	30	0.6		462	0.403
8	50	40	0.2		452.66	0.428
9	50	50	0.4		473.33	0.463

For conducting the experiment Frequency (Hz), Duty cycle (%) and Current density (A/cm<sup>2</sup>) are used as process parameters [10, 12, 33]. The experimental parameter and their notation are given in Table 3. For experimental run, L9 orthogonal array is designated. Surface roughness (Ra) is measured with Mitutoyo-SURFTEST SJ-410 and Micro Vickers Hardness Tester (Make: Shimadzu; Model: HMV-G) with 10 kilogram play load is used to measure the Micro Hardness (MH). The experimental run order and its results are shown in Table 4. The coated specimens are presented in Fig. 2.

## **Result and Discussion**

#### Single objective optimization

## S/N Ratio

The aim of this study is to improve the MH and



Fig. 3. Mean S/N ratio for Micro Hardness.

surface finish of a material. Generally, for calculation of S/N Ratio, smaller the better and higher the better are used. In this research hardness of the specimen should be improved and surface roughness reduced. Hence, higher the better is used for material hardness and for surface roughness, smaller the better condition is used. The equation of S/N ratio is given in Equation (1) and (2).

Smaller the Better: 
$$S / N = -10 \log \frac{1}{n} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{n} y_i^2 \right)$$
 (1)

Higher the Better: 
$$S / N = -10 \log \frac{1}{n} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{1}{y^2} \right)$$
 (2)

Here, "n" is a total no. of observations and "y" is observed data.

S/N ratio responses and their mean effects plots are done using Minitab19 software. Mean effects plots for MH and Ra are presented in Fig. 3 and 4 respectively.

Based on Main effects plot, for obtaining maximum MH, level 3 is the suitable coating condition. From Fig. 3, Frequency 50 Hz, Duty cycle 50% and Current



**Fig. 4.** a) Contour Plot for MH vs Frequency, Duty cycle; b) MH vs Duty cycle, current density; c) MH vs Frequency, current density.

density 0.6 A/Cm<sup>2</sup> are identified as optimal parameters. Fig. 4(a)-(c) shows the contour plot of the MH, it shows that microhardness increases, with the increasing trend of frequency, duty cycle and current density because of more deposition of nano particles on the specimen. Fig. 4(a)-(c), also shows that duty cycle is the major influencing factor on microhardness followed by current density, which is in good agreement with Natarajan et al. [12]. The microhardness gradually increases with increase in current density as the coating deposition is embedded with more amount of TiO<sub>2</sub> nano particles.

For obtaining reduced Ra, level three of frequency and level 1 of duty cycle and current density are suitable



**Fig. 5.** Mean S/N ratio for Ra.

Table 5. Mean	S/N Ratios	for Micro	Hardness
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Level	Frequency (Hz)	Duty cycle (%)	Current density (A/Cm <sup>2</sup> )
1	53.24	53.02	53.05
2	53.26	53.28	53.28
3	53.30	53.51	53.47
Delta	0.06	0.49	0.43
Rank	3	1	2

optimum parameters. Fig. 5 indicates, Frequency of 50 Hz, Duty cycle at 30% and Current density of 0.2 A/ Cm<sup>2</sup> are identified as optimal parameters values. From the experimental results, maximum micro hardness of 484.33 Hv is achieved with the maximum current density of 0.6  $A/Cm^2$ . These results are nearly agreeable with that of Thieming et al. [13]. For obtaining better Ra, Maximum frequency and minimum duty cycle are suggested. At maximum current density, the deposition rate is affected and it results in poor surface finish on the surface of the specimen. Fig. 6(a) -(c) shows the contour plots of the Ra. Roughness is directly proportional to duty cycle, gradually increases with increase in duty cycle, and inversely proportional to frequency. From contour plots of Figs. 6(a)-(c), it is observed that frequency is the most significant parameter that influence the Ra followed by duty cycle.

Table 5 represents the Mean S/N ratio for MH. From the table it is clear that, Duty cycle is the dominant factor on hardness compared to Frequency and current density. Increasing and decreasing the duty cycle directly vary the rate of movement of positive ions to reach cathode. It also varies the deposition rate of nano coating on the specimen [30]. ANOVA analysis for micro hardness was performed and the results are plotted in Table 6. From ANOVA analysis of MH, it is revealed that duty cycle is more significant (55.64%) compared to other parameters. This is due to the homogeneous deposition of nano particle on Inconel 617 which depends on variation in the duty cycle. Table 7 represents the confirmation experiment for achieving maximum Micro hardness. Based on the confirmation results, the maximum value of 485.91 Hv is obtained at the optimal conditions of Frequency 50







Fig. 6. a) Contour Plot for Ra vs Frequency, Duty cycle, b) Ra vs Duty cycle, current density, and c) Ra vs Frequency, current density.

Hz, Duty cycle 50% and Current density 0.6  $A/Cm^2$  and also the S/N ratio improved by 1.021.

Table 8 represents the S/N ratio for Ra. It is evident that, pulse frequency is the most dominant factor for

Table 6. ANOVA for MH

Table 7. Results of confirmation for MH

Parameters	Initial process	Optimal process parameters		
paramet	parameters	Prediction	Experiment	
Levels	$F_1D_1I_1$	$F_3D_3I_3$	$F_3D_3I_3$	
MH	432	486.257	485.91	
S/N ratio	52.71	53.7481	53.731	
Improvement of S/N ratio: 1.021				

#### Table 8. Mean S/N Ratios for Ra

Level	Frequency (Hz)	Duty cycle (%)	Current density (A/Cm <sup>2</sup> )
1	5.768	7.106	6.555
2	6.346	6.420	6.483
3	7.318	5.906	6.394
Delta	1.550	1.201	0.161
Rank	1	2	3

Ra compared to duty cycle and current density. Generally high pulse frequency and minimum duty cycle increase the homogeneity nano material deposition on the base metal. These results match very well with Yang and Cheng [31]. To identify the most influencing parameter on Ra, ANOVA analysis is performed and plotted in Table 9.

The highest of  $R^2 = 99.75\%$  is achieved in the ANOVA analysis for Ra. Pulse frequency exhibits the most significant contribution (66.9%) on Ra followed by duty cycle and current density shows least effect on Ra. Based on the S/N ratio plot for Ra (Fig. 5), confirmation table was plotted and given in Table 10. From the confirmation results for surface roughness, 0.398 µm is achieved at optimal parameters i.e., Frequency 50 Hz, Duty cycle 30% and Current density 0.2 A/Cm<sup>2</sup>. Confirmation results shown that Ra value is remarkably improved by 16.73%.

# Multi Objective Optimization - TOPSIS study

TOPSIS optimization technique is used to get multi objective optimized results. Initial step of TOPSIS study is the identification of decision matrix. It is represented by  $(r_{ij})$  and given in Equation (3). Followed by decision matrix, weight of each response should be allocated. Normalized value is defined with the help of decision matrix and preferred weights. Suitable expression is given in Equation (4). (Note:  $a_{ij}$  is i<sup>th</sup>

Source	DF	Adj SS	Adj MS	F-Value	P-Value	%contribution
Frequency (Hz)	2	14.54	7.268	0.40	0.714	0.80
Duty cycle (%)	2	1014.94	507.471	27.97	0.035	55.64
Current density (A/Cm <sup>2</sup> )	2	758.24	379.122	20.90	0.046	41.57
Error	2	36.28	18.142			1.99
Total	8	1824.00				100.00
S=2.86307; R-Sq=97.75%; R-Sq(adj)= 96.40%						

Source	DF	Adj SS	Adj MS	F-Value	P-Value	%contribution
Frequency (Hz)	2	0.010824	0.005412	994.06	0.001	61.69
Duty cycle (%)	2	0.006498	0.003249	596.71	0.002	37.03
Current density (A/Cm <sup>2</sup> )	2	0.000214	0.000107	19.61	0.049	1.22
Error	2	0.000011	0.000005			0.06
Total	8	0.017546				100.01
	S=0.00233	33; R-Sq=99.94%;	R-Sq(adj)= 99.75	%		

Table 9. ANOVA for Ra

Table 10. Results of confirmation for Ra

Dorometers	Initial process	Optimal process parameters		
1 arameters	parameters	Prediction	Experiment	
Levels	$F_1D_1I_1$	$F_3D_1I_1$	$F_3D_1I_1$	
Ra (µm)	0.478	0.392	0.398	
S/N ratio	6.411	8.024	8.002	
Improvement of S/N ratio: 1.591				

value of experimental order 'j')

$$r_{ij} = \frac{a_{ij}}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{m} a_{ij}^2}}$$
(3)

$$V_{ij} = W_i \times r_{ij} \tag{4}$$

Here wi= weight of ji.

In next step, Positive and negative ideal solution (S+ and S-) is calculated with the help of Equation (5) and (6.)

$$S_i^{+} = \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^{M} (v_{ij} - v_j^{+})^2}$$
(5)

$$S_i^- = \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^{M} (v_{ij} - v_j^-)^2}$$
(6)

In last step, CC (closeness coefficient) is determined by Equation (7). After evaluating CC, Rank is set with higher value of CC.

$$CC_{i} = \frac{S_{i}^{-}}{S_{i}^{+} + S_{i}^{-}}$$
(7)

Based on TOPSIS study, Table 11 & 12 represent the normalization value of Separation measures & Closeness Coefficient values of MH and Ra. For obtaining the better MH and Ra, all the parameters are considered as having equal weight. From Table.12, it can be noticed that the highest value of CC is achieved in experiment number seven with CC value of 0.8686. The minimum CC value is noted in experiment three. Preferred run order with respect to CC is 7>8>4>9>1>5>6>2>3. From response table (Table 13) Pule Frequency level is found to be the dominant factor followed by duty cycle and current density. It is evident that, for obtaining

Table 11. S/N ratio & Normalization Value

S/N	ratio	Norma	Normalization		normalized
Н	Ra	Н	Ra	Н	Ra
52.710	6.411	0.3123	0.3330	0.1561	0.1665
53.305	5.747	0.3344	0.3595	0.1672	0.1797
53.703	5.145	0.3501	0.3852	0.1750	0.1926
53.045	7.013	0.3246	0.3107	0.1623	0.1554
53.423	6.143	0.3390	0.3434	0.1695	0.1717
53.318	5.883	0.3349	0.3539	0.1675	0.1769
53.293	7.894	0.3340	0.2807	0.1670	0.1404
53.115	7.371	0.3272	0.2982	0.1636	0.1491
53.503	6.688	0.3421	0.3225	0.1711	0.1613

Table 12. Separation measures & Closeness Coefficient value

Separation	Separation measures		
S+	S-	cient CC*	
0.03225	0.02612	0.4475	
0.04013	0.01700	0.2975	
0.05225	0.01891	0.2658	
0.01968	0.03777	0.6574	
0.03183	0.02481	0.4380	
0.03735	0.01934	0.3411	
0.00807	0.05336	0.8686	
0.01438	0.04418	0.7544	
0.02127	0.03473	0.6201	

Table 13. Response Table for Signal to Noise I	Ratios
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Level	Frequency (Hz)	Duty cycle (%)	Current density (A/Cm <sup>2</sup> )
1	-9.674	-3.950	-6.258
2	-6.719	-6.716	-6.108
3	-2.607	-8.334	-6.634
Delta	7.067	4.384	0.527
Rank	1	2	3

better surface finish and higher hardness in  $Ni-TiO_2$  electrodeposition nano coating on Inconel 617, Pulse frequency is identified as the most influencing process parameter. The results are in good agreement with single objective optimization results [31].

Fig. 7 represents the main effect plot for CC\* with respect to process parameters. According to the plotted image,  $F_3D_1I_2$  is the optimal condition. Table 14, shows

Source	DF	Adj SS	Adj MS	F-Value	P-Value	%contribution
Frequency (Hz)	2	0.261159	0.130579	40.10	0.024	71.85
Duty cycle (%)	2	0.095608	0.047804	14.68	0.064	26.30
Current density (A/Cm <sup>2</sup> )	2	0.000211	0.000106	0.03	0.969	0.06
Error	2	0.006512	0.003256			1.79
Total	8	0.363490				100.00

Table 14. Analysis of Variance for CC\*



Fig. 7. Main effect plot for CC\*.

Frequency dominates highly with 71.85% on MH and Ra. Generally, variation in the current density directly hits the deposition rate. Homogeneous deposition improves the MH and surface finish. This result highly matches with that of Arunsunai Kumar et al. [32].

## **Confirmation experiment**

Confirmation experiment is the only way of verifying the optimized results [34]. Table 15 represents the confirmation experiment parameters. As per the levels indicated in the table, Frequency 50Hz, Duty cycle 30% and Current density 0.4 A/Cm<sup>2</sup> are identified as optimal parameters. The confirmation experiment for Ni-TiO<sub>2</sub> electrodeposition nano coating on Inconel 617

Table 15. Results of confirmation experiment

Parameters	Initial process	Optimal process parameters		
1 arameters	parameters	Prediction	Experiment	
Levels	$F_1D_1I_1$	$F_3D_1I_2$	$F_3D_1I_2$	
MH	432	-	474	
Ra	0.478	-	0.412	
CC*	0.4475	0.888	0.913	
Improvement of CC*: 0.466				

is conducted with high pulse frequency, minimum duty cycle and moderate current density. Micro hardness of 474 Hv and surface roughness of 0.412 are achieved. Improvement of CC is achieved by 50.98%. Fig. 8 represents the coated Inconel 617. Scanning Electron Macroscopic (SEM) analysis was carried out to ensure the dispersion of particle and surface structures. It is noted that, equal homogeneous deposition was seen and the same is represented in Fig. 9. EDAX analysis is the key to identify the presence of Ni-TiO<sub>2</sub> on Inconel 617 surface EDAX analysis is shown in Fig. 10 and the presence of Ni and other elements are noted.

#### **Corrosion test**

Inconel 617 alloy is identified as a most preferable selection of material with good mechanical properties and better temperature phase stability [35-39]. Hot corrosion resistance and the oxidation of nickel based alloys are enhanced by using protective coatings [40-



a) Before coating b) After coating Fig. 8. Coated Inconel 617 with coating thickness under optimal conditions.

c) coting thickness



Fig. 9. SEM Analysis of Coated Inconel 617 with F=50Hz, Duty cycle 30% and Current density 0.4 A/Cm<sup>2</sup> at different magnifications.



Fig. 10. EDAX Analysis of Coated Inconel 617 with F=50Hz, Duty cycle 30% and Current density 0.4 A/Cm<sup>2</sup>.

43]. Corrosion test was performed to ensure the improvement in corrosion behaviour of the Inconel 617 specimen under optimized conditions as per ASTM G28-02(RA15) standards. The samples are resized into

 $1.45 \times 1.72 \times 1.138$  cm resulting in a surface area of 9.37 cm<sup>2</sup>. For performing corrosion test, 25 gm of ferric sulphate Fe<sub>2</sub>(SO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub> is added with 400 mL of distilled water and 236 mL of sulphuric acid to prepare



Fig. 11. XRD image for coated Inconel at optimal condition.



Fig. 12. Coated specimen after corrosion test

the solution. All the specimens are ground finished using 600 grit and pickled with 20%  $HNO_3 + 5\%$  HF solution at 60° for 5 min before testing. The duration of test is 24 h at the test temperature of 120 °C. Loss of weight was noted in the specimen as 0.2225 gms and rate of corrosion was found to be 2.13 mm/year. Rate of corrosion of uncoated Inconel 617 is stated as 3.75 mm/year [43]. Corrosion rate is decreased by 43% in Ni-TiO<sub>2</sub> electrodeposition coating on Inconel 617 carried out under optimized conditions. Coated specimen after corrosion test is given in Fig.12. This test results are in good agreement with Kewther et al. [42].

# Conclusions

This experimental work is carried out to perform Ni-TiO<sub>2</sub> electrodeposition coating on Inconel 617 and achieve maximum MH and better Ra. From the analysis of the experimental results, the conclusions are summarized and given below.

Frequency of 50 Hz, Duty cycle at 50% and Current density of 0.6  $A/Cm^2$  are identified as the optimal parameters to achieve the maximum Micro hardness of 485.91 Hv.

For achieving better Ra of 0.398  $\mu$ m, Frequency of 50 Hz, Duty cycle at 30% and Current density at 0.2 A/Cm<sup>2</sup> are identified as optimal parameters.

TOPSIS study reveals that Frequency of 50Hz, Duty cycle at 30% and Current density of 0.4 A/Cm<sup>2</sup> are the optimal parameters to achieve maximum MH and better Ra.

Based on TOPSIS and confirmation experiments, MH of 474 Hv and Ra of 0.412  $\mu$ m are achieved under optimal conditions and also the closeness coefficient value improved remarkably from 0.4475 to 0.913.

SEM analysis was carried out to ensure the surface quality and EDAX test is performed to identify the presence of coating material on base alloy.

Based on corrosion test, rate of corrosion of Ni-TiO<sub>2</sub> nano coated Inconel 617 specimen is 2.13 mm/year and the corrosion rate decreased by 43% due to optimal coating conditions.

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