

# Ceramic Oxide MgO-SiO<sub>2</sub>-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> as Capacitor

Maryati Doloksaribu<sup>1\*</sup>, Pintor Simamora<sup>1</sup>, Mukti Hamjah Harahap<sup>1</sup>, Kristin<sup>1</sup>, Puspita Sari<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Physics Department, Medan State University, Medan, Indonesia

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Corresponding Author:

Maryati Doloksaribu

[maryatidoloksaribu@unimed.ac.id](mailto:maryatidoloksaribu@unimed.ac.id)

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**Abstract:** This study aims to analyze the effect of the composition MgO-SiO<sub>2</sub>-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> on dielectric constant, hardness, and microstructure. Good ceramics can be produced from an alloy of ceramic materials with a certain composition that is hard and able to store electric charge. Magnesium Oxide (MgO) ranked as the most heat-resistant insulating material for application practice. Silica (SiO<sub>2</sub>) is known for its hardness, besides that silica can also reduce plasticity and reduce dry shrinkage. The addition of alumina (Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) to the ceramic resulted in a reduction in the mass of the ceramic. However, the hardness value obtained is increasing. So that the alloy between MgO-SiO<sub>2</sub>-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> is expected to produce ceramics that have superior mechanical and electrical properties. This study varied the composition of MgO-SiO<sub>2</sub>-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> with a composition ratio of 50%:50%:0%, 80%:15%:5%, 60%:32%:8%, 30%:63%:12%, 10%:75%:15%. Sintering was carried out at 1200°C with a holding time of 8 hours. Then the sample's capacitance was measured using a capacitance meter and calculated the value of the dielectric constant, and hardness test using the Rockwell Hardness Tester type. The samples that have been tested for hardness are then taken three hardness values, namely low, medium, and high hardness to be tested for microstructure by SEM. The results show the MgO content increases, the value of the dielectric constant will increase but cause more pores. The level of SiO<sub>2</sub>-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> increases the higher the hardness value and the smaller the number of pores. Of the 5 samples that have been studied, the best sample used is sample 3 which has a good dielectric constant value, moderate hardness value, and the microstructure of the number of pores is not too much.

**Keywords:** Dielectric constant; Hardness; MgO-SiO<sub>2</sub>-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>; Microstructure

## Introduction

Ceramics continues to develop into an essential material today. This is due to the rapid development of science and technology which has influenced and changed many aspects of life. With the existence of science and technology in ceramics, it has been possible to identify the structure and chemical composition of its constituents and other mixing materials that can improve the properties of ceramics, so that a ceramic product can be produced for various needs of the mechanical, electronic, filter industries and even used in the field of space technology space (Arazaq et al., 2021; Barsoum, 2016; Nurzal et al., 2013).

Ceramics are found in almost every part of technology products. The development of technology based on ceramic materials is increasingly advanced, as

seen from the many studies on these materials. Ceramic materials are structurally attractive materials seen from their characteristics, for example, good heat capacity, low heat conductivity, and good corrosion resistance, their electrical properties can be insulators, semiconductors, conductors, and even superconductors, and their magnetic properties can be magnetic and non-magnetic, their mechanical properties can be hard and strong, but brittle which allows it to be used for various applications (Atmoko, 2015; Carter et al., 2017; Sobirin et al., 2016).

One of the ceramic materials that have wide applications both in industry and research is magnesium oxide (MgO). Magnesium Oxide is one of the main ingredients in the manufacture of ceramics because Magnesium Oxide has a very high melting point which is around 2000°C (Carp et al., 2014; Damayanti et al., 2015; Kosasih, 2016). Magnesium oxide is ranked as the

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most heat-resistant insulating material for practical applications. Magnesium oxide has fairly good thermal conductivity, and magnesium oxide has very good electrical resistance, so it is widely used as an insulator material with characteristics that tend not to change when heated, magnesium oxide is also a material that is safe for the human body (Hull, 2016; Mills, 2017). Putra et al. (2012) researched making ceramics with the composition MgO sintered at 1200°C. The results showed that when the MgO level decreased, the dielectric constant value decreased. Silica is the name given to a group of minerals consisting of oxygen and silicon with the chemical formula SiO<sub>2</sub>. The two most abundant elements in the earth's crust. Silica has coarse particles and contributes greatly to the hard mechanical properties of the material because the material does not soften easily and is resistant to penetration on its surface (Callister Jr, 2017; Gurbuz et al., 2018; Nurzal et al., 2013). Putra et al. (2012) researched making ceramics with SiO<sub>2</sub> composition sintered at 1200°C. The results showed that if the SiO<sub>2</sub> content increases, the hardness value will increase. Furthermore, according to Tamalia et al. (2017), the addition of alumina (Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) to ceramics reduces the mass of ceramics. However, the hardness value obtained is increasing. This is of course very much needed in the manufacture of light, strong and stable ceramics when heated to a temperature of 1000°C. Good ceramics can be produced from an alloy of ceramic materials with a certain composition that has several properties, including mechanical properties and dielectric properties.

Magnesium oxide (MgO) is an electronic ceramic whose material has dielectric properties and is capable of storing electric charges. Silica (SiO<sub>2</sub>) is an important material in the manufacture of ceramics and the formation of glass. Silica has coarse particles and contributes greatly to its mechanical properties, namely hardness. The addition of alumina (Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) to ceramics supports increasing the hardness value of ceramics. So that the alloy between MgO, SiO<sub>2</sub>, and Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> is expected to be able to determine the effect on the characteristics of the formation of phase structures, crystal size, and physical properties as well as hardness and produce ceramics that have advantages and resistance, including having hard properties and being able to store electric charges which are applied as ceramic capacitor materials (Matthews et al., 2019; Maulana, 2018). Based on the background above, the researchers conducted research to determine the effect of the composition of MgO-SiO<sub>2</sub>-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> on oxide ceramics.

## Method

Preparing raw materials for ceramic MgO-SiO<sub>2</sub>-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> according to the variation of the composition that

has been determined, the mixing process is carried out using a spatula carefully so that it is not contaminated with other materials. Then pressing the sample in the form of tablets. Pressing is done with a vertical force of 5 tons. Then the Sintering process is a process of heat treatment of the sample to increase the bonding of the particles so that the strength and hardness increase. The sintering temperature was used 1200°C withholding time for 8 hours. The next step is to calculate the value and test the ceramics that have been made. Hardness testing using the Vickers Hardness method using a Rockwell-type Hardness Tester, dielectric constant values using a capacitance meter. Samples with the lowest, medium, and highest hardness values were examined for their microstructure using the SEM (Scanning Electron Microscope) tool.

## Result and Discussion

### Hardness test

Based on the data in Table 1, the relationship between hardness and variations in the composition of the MgO-SiO<sub>2</sub>-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> ceramics is made. The increase in the hardness value of the variation in the MgO-SiO<sub>2</sub>-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> ceramic composition is due to the more significant variation in the design of SiO<sub>2</sub>-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. Because Silica Oxide has coarse particles and contributes greatly to the mechanical properties of the material and is resistant to penetration on its surface. Alumina (Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) is a material that is often used in various applications because of its high physical and chemical properties, such as very high strength and very hardness (Inkson, 2016; Mujib et al., 2013; Rahaman, 2017; Raharjo, 2015). In this case, we can see that if the SiO<sub>2</sub>-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> level increases, the hardness value increases, and the number of pores decreases. And if the number of pores decreases in the microstructure, the hardness value tends to increase.

**Table 1.** Data Hardness Test

Various Composite MgO-SiO <sub>2</sub> -Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	Hardness Test
50%-50%-0%	41.89 Kgf/mm <sup>2</sup>
80%-15%-5%	28.54 Kgf/mm <sup>2</sup>
60%-32%-8%	45.98 Kgf/mm <sup>2</sup>
30%-63%-12%	60.83 Kgf/mm <sup>2</sup>
10%-75%-15%	74.76 Kgf/mm <sup>2</sup>

### Dielectric Constant Testing

From the five samples tested, the capacitance value data obtained from the measurement results with a capacitance meter were then carried out to calculate the dielectric constant.

**Table 2.** Data Dielectric Constant

Various composite MgO-SiO <sub>2</sub> -Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	Capacitance	Diameter (m)	Large (m <sup>2</sup> )	$\epsilon = c \frac{d}{A}$	$K = \frac{\epsilon}{\epsilon_0}$
50%-50%-0%	4.53.10 <sup>-12</sup>	15.10 <sup>-3</sup>	1.17.10 <sup>-4</sup>	38.39.10 <sup>-11</sup>	43.37
80%-15%-5%	4.74.10 <sup>-12</sup>	15.10 <sup>-3</sup>	1.17.10 <sup>-4</sup>	40.17.10 <sup>-11</sup>	45.39
60%-32%-8%	4.61.10 <sup>-12</sup>	15.10 <sup>-3</sup>	1.17.10 <sup>-4</sup>	39.07.10 <sup>-11</sup>	44.15
30%-63%-12%	3.79.10 <sup>-12</sup>	15.10 <sup>-3</sup>	1.17.10 <sup>-4</sup>	32.12.10 <sup>-11</sup>	36.30
10%-75%-15%	3.00.10 <sup>-12</sup>	15.10 <sup>-3</sup>	1.17.10 <sup>-4</sup>	25.42. 10 <sup>-11</sup>	28.72

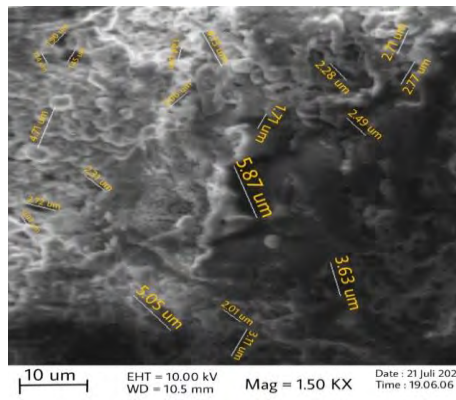
MgO-SiO<sub>2</sub>-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> ceramic composition is caused by the more significant variation in the MgO composition. A type of ceramic material used for electrical insulators (Sidabutar, 2017; Utomo, 2013). In this case, we can see that if the MgO level increases, the value of the dielectric constant will increase. However, rising levels of MgO cause many large pores to appear, causing more pores and lower hardness values.

*Morphology Testing*

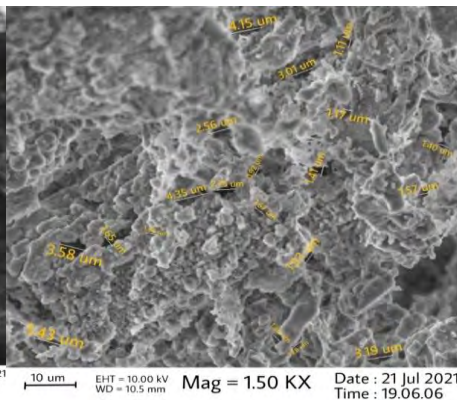
Observation of the morphological structure was carried out to see the wide pores found on the surface of

the sample. There were 3 samples selected. The three samples were chosen because they have a hardness value that can represent other samples, namely the sample with the smallest hardness (sample 2), medium hardness (sample 3), and the highest hardness value (sample 5). Calculation of the length of the pore area using the Image application.

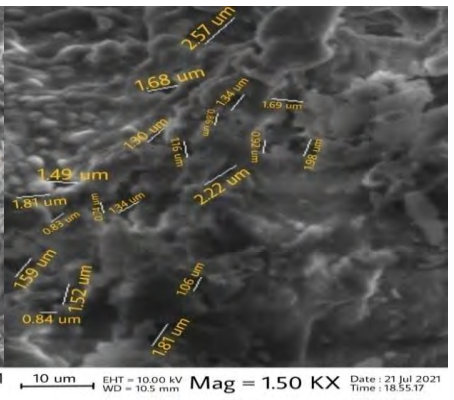
From the results of the SEM test, the surface microstructure of the oxide ceramics was obtained as shown below:



**Figure 1.** SEM sample 2



**Figure 1.** SEM sample 3



**Figure 3.** SEM sample 5

In Figure 1, MgO-SiO<sub>2</sub>-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> oxide ceramics with the smallest hardness have an average pore length of 2.72 μm. In this image, many large pores appear due to the addition of many MgO elements (Maharani et al., 2017) which causes more pores and lower hardness values. In Figure 2, MgO-SiO<sub>2</sub>-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> oxide ceramics with moderate hardness have an average pore length of 2.22 μm. It can be seen in the image that the homogenization of the material is quite good, although from the observations in the picture there are still visible pores, but not too many. In Figure 3, MgO-SiO<sub>2</sub>-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> oxide ceramics with moderate hardness have an average pore area of 1.40 μm. In this picture, there are not many pores that appear because of the many additions of SiO<sub>2</sub>-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> elements which contribute significantly to the mechanical properties, hardness, and high strength (Raharjo, 2015) causing the hardness value in sample 5 to be the highest among other samples.

**Conclusion**

The increase in the dielectric constant value of the variation in the MgO-SiO<sub>2</sub>-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> ceramic composition is caused by the more significant variation in the composition of MgO, when the MgO level increases, the value of the dielectric constant increases, it has the potential to store electric charge. However, increasing levels of MgO cause many large pores to appear, causing more pores and lower hardness values. The increase in the hardness value of the variation in the composition of the MgO-SiO<sub>2</sub>-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> ceramics was due to the increased levels of SiO<sub>2</sub>-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and a decrease in the number of pores. And if the number of pores decreases in the microstructure, the hardness value tends to increase. Of the 5 samples that have been studied, the best sample used to be applied as a ceramic capacitor material which has a hardness value of 45.98 and a dielectric constant value of 44.15 is sample 3, because it has a fairly good

dielectric constant value, moderate hardness value, and the microstructure of the number of pores that are not too many.

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