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# Nanostructured materials: synthesis, structural and magnetic properties

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# Outline of the work:

- Synthesis and characterization of nanoporous anodic alumina membranes (NAAMs) as templates.
- Fabrication of magnetic/metallic nanowires by electrodeposition in NAAMs.
- Synthesis of anodic Titanium oxide nanotubes for UV self-cleaning sensors of organic contaminants, (oils, hydrocarbons).
- Hexagonally ordered nanoholes array magnetic films by replicating NAAMs.

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• MCE: Arrays of nanostructured ferromagnetic nanowires for magnetic refrigerant devices.

**/iedo (Spain)** September 01-05.

### http://www10.uniovi.es/SCTs/servicios/cristo/membranas/servicioCC16presentacion.html

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### **Scientific-Technological Common Services** SCT's UniOvi.



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**Nanostructured Functional Materials & Nanoporous Membranes Laboratory at University of Oviedo** 

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### Home-made experimental anodization setup:





**Potentiostatic anodization**: Constant dc Voltage between the two electrodes (sample and Pt grid). Controll of the anodization parameters as: type of electrolite, pH, Temperature, value of the applied voltage.

Agitation system for continuous renewing the solution.

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#### **Synthesis of Nanoporous Anodic Alumina Templates:**

(two-step anodization process)



a) starting foil: high purity Al (99,999%)



b) first anodization process: (nanopores randomly oriented) c) Aluminium template: (after removing alumina porous layer by chemical etching)



d) second anodization process: (nanopores self-ordered grown hexagonally centered)



Highly-ordered alumina pore structures: Masuda & Fukuda Science (1995)

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| Sample | Electrolite                              | T (°C) | V <sub>anod</sub> (V) | First anodization time<br>(hours) | Second anodization time<br>(hours) | d <sub>pores</sub> (nm) | D <sub>interpores</sub><br>(nm) | Porosity (%) |
|--------|--|--------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| a)     | H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub><br>0,47 M | 1      | 25                    | 10                                | 1                                  | 26±3                    | 62±4                            | 16           |
| b)     | (COOH) <sub>2</sub><br>0,3 M             | 2-3    | 40                    | 92                                | 2                                  | 37±4                    | 102±6                           | 12           |



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### Nanopores widening

NAAM (Oxalic) after a controlled etching in phosphoric acid 5% wt. and at 30°C



40 45 50 55 60 D<sub>p</sub> (nm)

65

35



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### Synthesis of Metallic Nanowires by Pulsed Electrodeposition



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Current pulse during the electrodeposition

### **Characterization: Nickel nanowires in NAAMs**



TEM image of an isolated Ni nanowire showing its polycrystalline nanostructure.

HR-SEM of an uniform Ni filled NAAM template by pulsed electrodeposition d pore = 35 nm = d nanowire Dinterpore = 105 nm = Dnw interspacing Nanowires length = order of microns



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### **AFM and Magnetic MFM characterization**



a) MFM image of an isolated
Ni nanowire showing its
dipolar magnetic structure.
The nanowire has 4 μm
length and 35 nm diameter.

 b) MFM image of an array of Ni<sub>69</sub>Fe<sub>31</sub> nanowires embedded in an AAM template in its remanent magnetic state



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### **Anodic TiO<sub>2</sub> nanotubes: self-cleaning contaminant sensors**





dnt = 40-100 nm

Wthick = 20-60 nm

L = 200 nm-microns

Self-cleaning under UV radiation.



Research Project PCTI-FICyT: FC06-PC041; V. Vega et al, Nanoscale Res. Lett. 2, (2007) 355

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### Magnetic/metallic films with hexagonally ordered nanoholes array



# Magnetocaloric Effect in Nano-materials: application to self-assembled Magnetic Nanowires

### Aim:

Nanostructured ferromagnetic alloys in form of thin films, or as arrays of self-ordered nanowires embedded in NAAM templates exhibiting high uniaxial shape anisotropy, are able to overcome thermal fluctuations even in very small sizes.

This effect is a clear disadvantage in bulk thermoelastic alloys that are not suitable for their use in rapid actuation of microsensors or actuators because of the response speed of actuators is significantly limited by the heat conduction of the material itself.

**MCE:** related to the capacity of a magnetic material for changing its temperature under the applying or removing a magnetic field.

Purpose: employ of Nanostructured materials in magnetic refrigeration devices.

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Theoretically simulations predict the coexistence of both regimes, positive and negative magnetocaloric effect (**MCE**) in a material having a single magnetic phase transition. Model: ensemble of single domain particles, whose easy magnetization axes lie parallel aligned and the uniaxial oriented particles are perpendicularly magnetized with respect to their easy axis. (Non-interacting model) simulated for different temperatures. The MCE regime can be controlled by the applied magnetic field.

**Basic equations:** 
$$E = -\mu_0 M_s VH(\hat{e}_m \cdot \hat{e}_h) + KV(\hat{e}_m \wedge \hat{e}_k)$$

reduced magnetization (*m*=*M*/*M*<sub>*S*</sub>) calculated as  $< m >= \frac{\iint e^{\frac{L}{kT}}(\hat{e}_m \cdot \hat{e}_h) \sin \theta d\theta d\phi}{\iint e^{\frac{-L}{kT}} \sin \theta d\theta d\phi}$ (superparamagnetic-like hysteresis loops):

and the magnetic entropy change, from Maxwell relation:  $\Delta S_M = \int_{\Omega}^{H} \left(\frac{\partial M}{\partial T}\right)_{H} dH$ 

(2004)

**Magnetocaloric Effect** 

 $\Delta S_M$  for low applied fields (H<H<sub>K</sub>) exhibits a positive peak (negative MCE) at low temperatures, and another negative peak (positive MCE) at higher temperatures



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lower values.

**Experimental system: array of magnetic** single domain Ni nanowires 35 nm diameter \_\_\_ 105 nm interwire spacing

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Magnetic field dependence of  $\Delta S_M$  curves: at low temperatures, the positive peak is located close to the anisotropy field,  $H_{\kappa}$ . As temperature increases, the field H at the maximum value of the entropy change shifts to

For all temperatures, high applied magnetic fields cause a progressive decrease of  $\Delta S_M$  when the temperature increases.



#### Improved model: MC simulations including nanoparticles dipolar interactions



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Research project : (Strategic Action for Nanoscience & Nanotechnology) NAN2004-09203-C04-01, NAN2004-09203-C04-03 and NAN2004-09203-C04-04

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## Summary:

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- We syntetize highly ordered nanoporous alumina membranes by following a two-step anodization process.
- Using the alumina nanopores as templates, we can produce different kind of nanostructured materials as magnetic nanowires or antidot films.
- We also syntetize highly aligned Titanium Oxide nanotubes by a single anodization procedure.
- The employ of nanostructured magnetic nanowires, with single magnetic phase and well defined magnetic anisotropy, for their use in magnetic refrigeration devices is being studied.





