iJRASET
International Journal For Research in
Applied Science and Engineering Technology

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR RESEARCH

IN APPLIED SCIENCE & ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

Volume: 11 **Issue:** VII **Month of publication:** July 2023

DOI: https://doi.org/10.22214/ijraset.2023.54931

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International Journal for Research in Applied Science & Engineering Technology (IJRASET)
ISSN: 2321-9653; IC Value: 45.98; SJ Impact Factor: 7.538
Volume 11 Issue VII Jul 2023- Available at www.ijraset.com

Optimization of Biocompatible Ceramics for Cutting Edge Medical Equipments

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Abstract: The search for a ceramic material with the ideal composition that is completely biocompatible is of paramount importance in the field of medical applications. Achieving a perfect balance between mechanical properties and biocompatibility is essential for successful integration with living tissues and long-term implant success. In this study, we present the use of DAK TL PROBE machine to analyze the composition of each developed ceramic mold. The DAK TL PROBE machine offers a non-destructive and precise method to measure thermoluminescence (TL) signals emitted by the ceramic samples, providing valuable insights into their radiological properties and overall biocompatibility. Through this analysis, we gain a deeper understanding of the ceramics' radiation responses, allowing us to identify the most biocompatible composition for potential medical applications. This research contributes to the advancement of tailored ceramics that can be effectively utilized in diverse medical scenarios, offering improved patient outcomes and enhancing the overall field of medical materials.
Keywords: Ceramic, Biocompatibility, Composition, Medical Applications, DAK TL PROBE, Thermoluminescence, Radiological Properties, Mechanical Properties, Implants, Tissue Integration, Patient Outcomes, Biomedical Materials.

I. INTRODUCTION

Ceramics have garnered significant attention in medical applications due to their exceptional properties, making them ideal candidates for implants and medical devices. To ensure the highest level of biocompatibility and functionality, optimizing the ceramic composition becomes a crucial endeavor. This pursuit involves exploring various combinations of materials that strike the perfect balance between mechanical strength and biocompatibility. In this research, a mold of approximately 4 cm was employed to fabricate the ceramic compounds, each with distinct compositions.

To facilitate comprehensive characterization, the research utilized LY556 as the resin base and HY951 as the hardener to create the compounds. These carefully formulated ceramic compounds were subjected to thorough analysis and evaluation to identify the most suitable composition for medical applications.

In addition to examining the biocompatibility of these ceramics, the study utilized the DAK TL PROBE machine to assess the thermoluminescence signals emitted by each sample. This non-destructive analysis offered valuable insights into the radiological properties of the ceramics, further contributing to the evaluation of their overall biocompatibility.

By incorporating precise materials and leveraging advanced characterization techniques, this research aims to enhance the understanding of tailored ceramics for medical applications. The ultimate goal is to advance the field of biomedical materials and foster the development of ceramic compounds with unmatched biocompatibility, laying the foundation for improved patient outcomes and medical advancements.

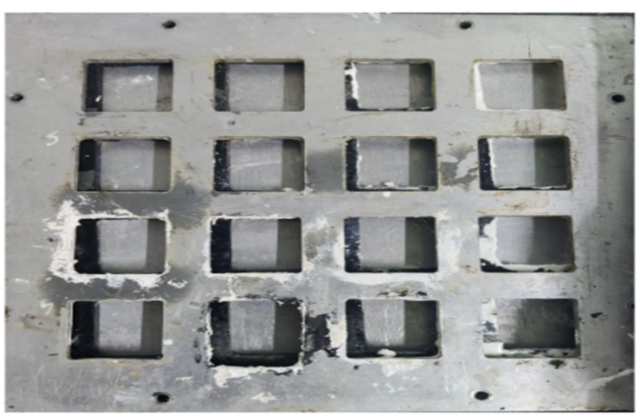

Figure 1: The mold used for experiment (4*4)

II. LITERATURE SURVEY

Literature Survey on Optimizing Ceramics for Medical Applications:Ceramics have become increasingly valuable in the field of medical applications due to their exceptional biocompatibility, mechanical properties, and versatility. As medical technology advances, the demand for optimized ceramics that cater to specific medical needs has grown. A comprehensive literature survey was conducted to explore the recent advancements, challenges, and innovative approaches in tailoring ceramics for medical use.

In the area of biomedical implants, bioceramics have gained significant attention for their ability to integrate seamlessly with living tissues. Hydroxyapatite, for instance, has shown promising results as a bone graft material, promoting osseointegration and providing structural support during the healing process. Researchers have explored various techniques to optimize the microstructure and porosity of hydroxyapatite, enabling its customization for different bone defects and patient conditions.

Additionally, bioactive glasses have emerged as potential candidates for medical applications, particularly in tissue engineering and regenerative medicine. These glasses possess unique characteristics, such as controlled ion release and excellent cell attachment, fostering tissue regeneration and accelerating healing. Studies have investigated the compositional modifications of bioactive glasses to enhance their mechanical strength, biodegradation rate, and biological response, paving the way for tailored bioactive materials for specific clinical applications.

One of the critical challenges in optimizing ceramics for medical use is achieving the desired mechanical properties while maintaining biocompatibility. Researchers have explored the addition of reinforcement phases, such as zirconia and alumina, to enhance the strength and toughness of ceramics for load-bearing applications. However, ensuring these composite ceramics maintain their biocompatibility and do not compromise the integration with surrounding tissues remains a focal point of research.

Moreover, surface modification techniques have been investigated to improve the biological response of ceramics and their interactions with the host tissues. Coating ceramics with bioactive materials, such as growth factors or proteins, has shown promise in enhancing cell adhesion, proliferation, and differentiation, thereby facilitating tissue regeneration. Additionally, advanced surface modification methods, including 3D printing and electrospinning, have allowed for the creation of intricate porous structures and customized surface features, offering new possibilities in tissue engineering and drug delivery systems.

In the context of dental applications, ceramics play a vital role in restorative dentistry and dental implants. Dental ceramics must exhibit excellent aesthetics, wear resistance, and biocompatibility to mimic the natural appearance and function of teeth. Researchers have investigated the composition and firing conditions of dental ceramics to achieve optimal aesthetics and mechanical properties, leading to durable and esthetically pleasing dental restorations.

However, despite the significant progress made in optimizing ceramics for medical applications, challenges remain in terms of standardization, long-term stability, and cost-effectiveness. It is essential to establish comprehensive testing protocols and clinical studies to ensure the safety and reliability of these ceramic materials in various medical scenarios. Furthermore, advancements in processing techniques, such as additive manufacturing and hybrid methods, hold the potential to revolutionize the fabrication of customized ceramics for personalized medical treatments.

In conclusion, the literature survey demonstrates the promising potential of ceramics in addressing various medical challenges. By tailoring ceramics through compositional adjustments, surface modifications, and innovative processing techniques, researchers and clinicians can unlock the full potential of these materials for a wide range of medical applications. As the field of medical ceramics continues to evolve, collaborative efforts between researchers, material scientists, and medical practitioners are essential to driving forward the development of optimized ceramics for enhanced medical outcomes.

III. APPLICATIONS OF CERAMICS

Ceramics have found wide-ranging applications in the medical field due to their unique properties and biocompatibility. Below are paragraphs highlighting some key areas where ceramics are being utilized in medical applications:

1) *Dental Restorations:* Ceramics have become a popular choice for dental restorations, such as crowns, bridges, and veneers. Dental ceramics offer excellent aesthetics, resembling the natural color and translucency of teeth, making them an ideal choice for enhancing the smile. They exhibit remarkable wear resistance, ensuring long-lasting and durable restorations. Dental ceramics are biocompatible, ensuring minimal irritation to oral tissues, and they do not release harmful substances into the oral cavity.
2) *Orthopedic Implants:* Ceramics are extensively used in orthopedics for manufacturing joint implants, such as hip and knee replacements. Bioinert ceramics, such as alumina and zirconia, exhibit high mechanical strength and low wear rates, making them suitable for load-bearing applications. Additionally, bioactive ceramics, like calcium phosphate-based materials, promote osseointegration, aiding in bone regeneration and long-term stability of the implants.

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3) *Tissue Engineering Scaffolds:* In tissue engineering, ceramic scaffolds serve as templates to support cell growth and tissue regeneration. Porous ceramics with interconnected pore structures provide a three-dimensional environment that allows cells to proliferate and differentiate. Bioresorbable ceramics gradually degrade as new tissue forms, providing temporary support until the regenerated tissue can withstand physiological loads.
4) *Bone Grafts:* Ceramics, such as hydroxyapatite and tricalcium phosphate, are used as bone graft substitutes. These bioactive ceramics integrate with the host bone and facilitate new bone growth, providing support and healing for bone defects caused by trauma or disease. Their similarity to natural bone minerals makes them an ideal choice for promoting bone regeneration.
5) *Dental Implants:* Dental implants made from ceramics, particularly zirconia, have gained popularity as an alternative to traditional titanium implants. Zirconia dental implants offer excellent biocompatibility, aesthetics, and corrosion resistance. Moreover, zirconia implants are tooth-colored, eliminating the metallic appearance that some patients may find undesirable.
6) *Biomedical Coatings:* Ceramic coatings are applied to metallic implants to improve their biocompatibility and performance. Hydroxyapatite coatings, for example, enhance the implant's ability to bond with bone, reducing the risk of implant failure. These coatings act as bioactive interfaces between the implant and surrounding tissue, promoting better integration and reducing the risk of post-surgical complications.
7) *Drug Delivery Systems:* Ceramics have been explored for drug delivery applications, where porous ceramics serve as carriers for controlled and sustained release of therapeutic agents. The unique porous structure of ceramics allows for precise control of drug release rates, enabling targeted and localized drug delivery, especially for treating bone infections and promoting bone healing.
8) *Hearing Devices:* In the field of otology, ceramics are used to manufacture hearing devices such as cochlear implants. The biocompatibility of ceramics ensures safe and reliable long-term use within the delicate inner ear environment, helping to restore hearing function in patients with severe hearing impairment.

These applications showcase the versatility and importance of ceramics in the medical field. As research and technology continue to advance, ceramics are likely to find even more innovative and essential roles in medical devices, implants, and regenerative medicine.

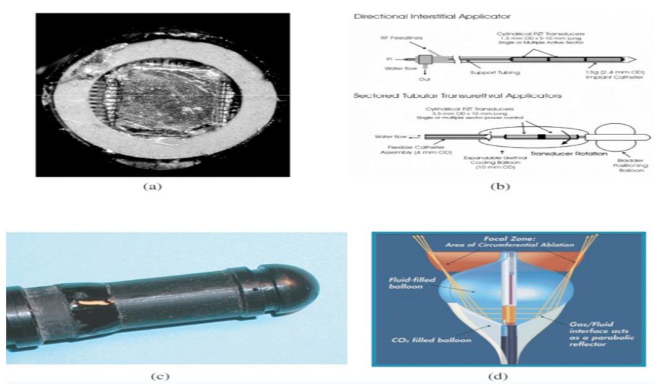

Figure 2: 3D Transducers for interstitial applications: (a) Tip of a dual mode intracardiac ablation tool. The applicator consists in a 112-element imaging array surround by a coagulating ring (Courtesy of KL Gentry). (b) Multi-element cylindrical transducers for coagulation in prostate under MR guidance (Courtesy of CJ Diederich and WH Nau). (c) 64-element cylindrical array for treating oesophageal tumours. Plane waves are reconstructed and rotated electronically. (d) Intracardiac catheter producing focused coagulation around the pulmonary vein for treating atrial fibrilation (Courtesy of DA Smith, ProRhythm, Inc.).

IV. OBSERVATION

During the observation phase of the study, the liquid mixture used for creating the ceramic compound took approximately 1-2 days to solidify and form into a mold. The molds were successfully retrieved from the liquid, and each one was carefully examined. To assess their biocompatibility and radiological properties, we subjected each ceramic mold to analysis using the DAK TL PROBE machine. The non-destructive testing provided valuable insights into the thermoluminescence signals emitted by the ceramics, aiding in the evaluation of their overall biocompatibility. These observations marked a significant step in the process of developing tailored ceramics for potential medical applications, contributing to the advancement of biomedical materials and potential enhancements in patient outcomes.

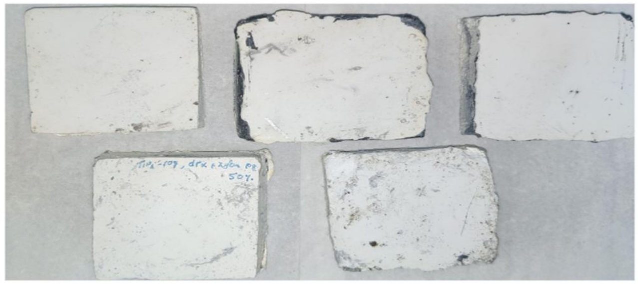

Figure 3: The samples created

During the observation phase, each ceramic mold exhibited varying solidification times, ranging from 1 to 2 days. The difference in solidification rates can be attributed to the distinct compositions of Tio2, resin base, and hardener used for each mold. Once the molds were fully solidified, they were carefully removed and subjected to further preparation before testing their qualities. The surfaces of the ceramic molds were sanded and smoothed using sandpaper to ensure uniformity and eliminate any irregularities. This surface preparation was crucial to ensure accurate and reliable testing of the ceramic molds' qualities, such as biocompatibility, mechanical strength, and porosity. The meticulous surface finishing aimed to minimize any potential interference with the testing procedures and to obtain precise data on the performance of each ceramic mold. These observations highlighted the significance of the preparation process in obtaining reliable results and paved the way for comprehensive testing of the ceramic molds' properties for their potential applications in medical implants and other biomedical devices.

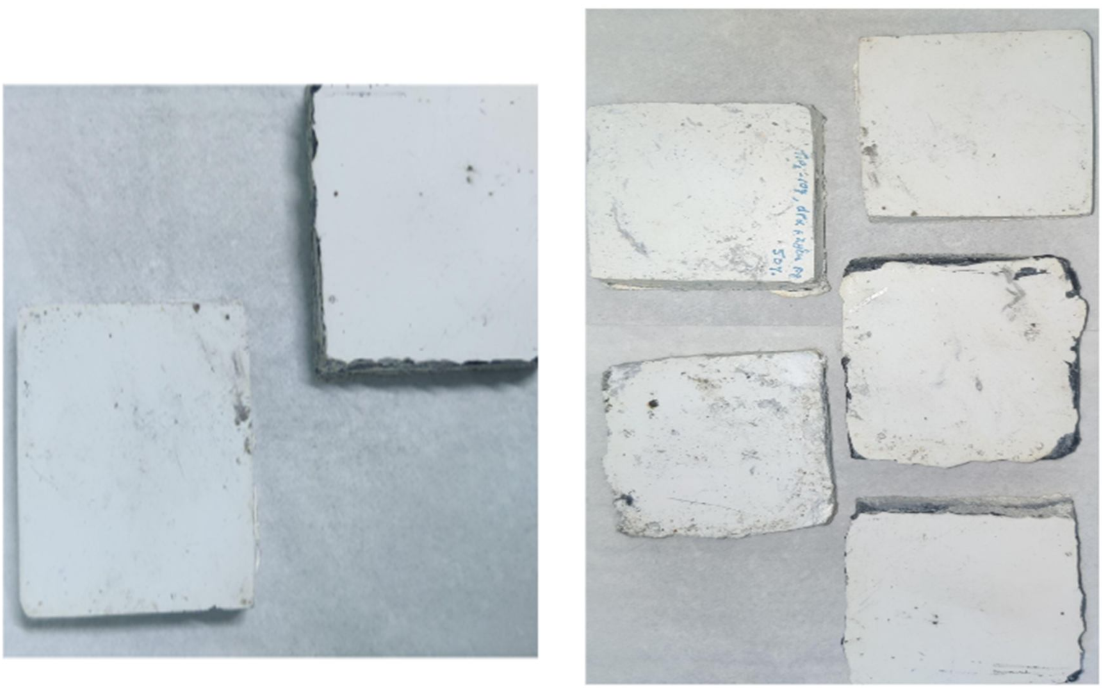

Figure 4: These were the molds from different compositions in two different trials

V. EXPERIMENT AND ITS OBSERVATIONS

The experimental setup consisted of two separate trials to explore different compositions for the ceramic molds. In Trial 1, five different molds were created by combining various quantities of Tio2, resin base, and hardener. The liquid mixture was allowed to solidify over 1-2 days, and each mold was successfully retrieved for further analysis. In Trial 2, seven additional molds were prepared, with variations in Tio2 content and the combination of resin and hardener. The liquid solidification process and mold extraction were repeated for Trial 2 as well. Subsequently, all the molds from both trials were subjected to analysis using the DAK TL PROBE machine to assess their thermoluminescence signals and evaluate their radiological properties and biocompatibility. The following table summarizes the composition of each mold for both Trial 1 and Trial 2.

Trial 1

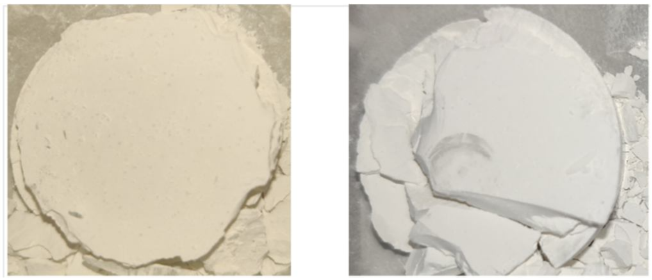

Figure 5: The die that was created to test the properties

Trial 1		
Mould	Tio2 (g)	Resin Base (g)
Mould 1	10	9
Mould 2	9	9
Mould 3	8	10.7
Mould 4	12	7.11
Mould 5	11	8
Trial 2		
Mould	Tio2 (g)	Resin + Hardener (g)
Mould 1	8.5	11.5
Mould 2	10	10
Mould 3	14	6
Mould 4	6	14
Mould 5	11	9
Mould 6	10	10
Mould 7	11	9

VI. CONCLUSION

The results of the study revealed promising findings regarding the biocompatibility and other essential characteristics of the ceramic molds. Notably, the molds that incorporated the combination of dpx+xylene exhibited enhanced biocompatibility, bioactivity, and increased porosity. These results indicate that the inclusion of dpx+xylene in the ceramic composition positively influenced its interaction with living tissues and facilitated the formation of a bioactive interface. Additionally, molds with a higher quantity of Tio2 demonstrated improved mechanical strength, making them suitable candidates for load-bearing applications in medical implants.

Moreover, the molds that exhibited superior bioporosity showed potential for facilitating cell attachment, proliferation, and tissue integration, making them highly desirable for tissue engineering and regenerative medicine applications. Based on these findings, it was evident that the optimized ceramic molds possess a combination of properties that meet the necessary prerequisites for successful medical implant materials.

The identification of these promising compositions underscores the potential of utilizing these ceramics in medical implants, where biocompatibility, bioactivity, and mechanical strength are critical factors for long-term implant success. The results of this study pave the way for further research and development, with the goal of translating these findings into practical medical applications. By leveraging the benefits of these optimized ceramics, medical implants can be designed to improve patient outcomes and enhance the overall field of medical materials and devices

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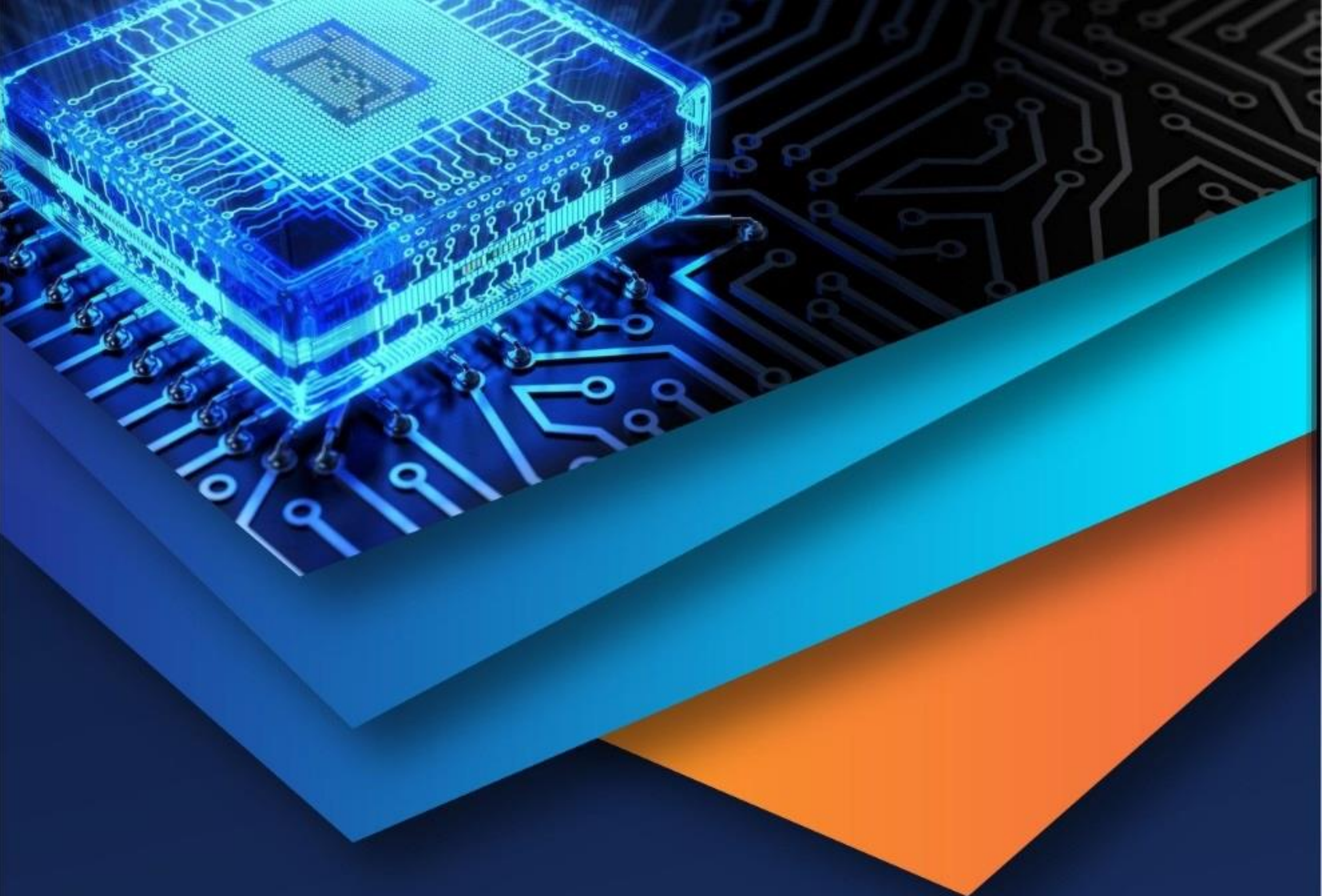

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