

# A Review of the Advancement and Challenges of 6xxx Series Aluminum Metal Matrix Composites for Automotive Application

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ARTICLE INFORMATION	ABSTRACT
<b>Article history:</b> Published: February 2026  <b>Keywords:</b> Advancements Challenges 6xxx series AMMCs Automotive application Stir casting	The need for lightweight, high-strength materials in automotive, aerospace, structural, and many more applications has led to innovative aluminum metal matrix composites (AMMCs). This offer benefits such as weight reduction, emissions control, increased fuel efficiency, and enhanced vehicle performance. The purpose of this paper is to examine studies on the fabrication and potential application of 6xxx composites. The review begins with a focus on the 6xxx series alloys, followed by a brief description of the processing technique. This review also thoroughly evaluates the physical, mechanical, and tribological properties of 6xxx composites. In addition to the stated characteristics, the advancement in automotive application has been envisioned. It also emphasizes the challenges that are currently encountered during the processing of AMMCs, such as inadequate wettability, agglomeration, and uneven dispersal. Furthermore, future research directions in the realm of aluminum based composites were suggested. Finally, the review found that the 6xxx alloys are emerging as viable composites in automotive applications. AMMCs of the 6xxx series can be strengthened by incorporating materials like SiC, B <sub>4</sub> C, Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> , TiC, and so on to enhance their mechanical and tribological properties. Stir casting is preferred for AMMCs because of its simplicity, low cost, and ability to ensure uniform particle distribution within its limitations. As increasing reinforcement, the 6xxx alloy matrix composites mechanical and tribological properties enhanced to some extent, and further decreased. This review is a valuable resource for researchers, engineers, and industry experts aiming to set performance.

## 1. Introduction

The design and development of automotive components and structures involve careful consideration to meet the precise demands of their intended tasks. These components operate in demanding conditions, exposed to high stresses, elevated temperatures, and corrosive environments. However, the challenging nature of these operating conditions can gradually degrade the performance and integrity of automotive components, potentially leading to failure. Therefore, it becomes crucial to innovate materials that possess superior physical, mechanical, and tribological properties, in order to enhance the durability and reliability of automotive components and structures. The automotive industry has been relentlessly pursuing innovative lightweight materials that can contribute to improved fuel efficiency, reduced emissions (CO<sub>2</sub>), minimizing weight, and enhanced performance without compromising safety and structural integrity. Researchers are now not only focused on finding materials or composites that meet application needs but also prioritize eco-friendly, renewable, and degradable materials. In today's engineering applications, there is a growing demand for materials that offer a mix of lightweight properties, outstanding strength, and cost-effectiveness [1,2].

The pursuit of lightweight materials with high strength has driven the emergence of innovative aluminum-based metal matrix composites [3–5]. Aluminum metal matrix composites (AMMCs) have gained significant attention for automotive applications [6]. AMMCs offer advantages such as weight reduction, lower emissions, increased fuel efficiency, and better overall vehicle performance and efficiency. Ongoing research on AMMCs seeks to improve their qualities and widen their applications. These AMMCs are widely used in a variety of industries, including aerospace, automotive, rail transport, marine, aircraft, construction, transmission, biomedical, nuclear, power, and electronics, where they provide unique properties and advantages that make them highly valuable [7]. These composites have exceptional properties [8], such as superior physical and mechanical properties [9], corrosion resistance [10], combining lightness with good strength [11], and possessing thermal stability, specific strength, and wear resistance [12]. Aluminum metal matrix finds extensive application in the automotive industry, particularly in components where wear resistance is crucial, such as valves, water coolants, cylinder linings, fan blades, pistons, rings, etc. [13]. They are also integrated in to brake plates and drums, chamber squares and liners, cylinders, crankshafts, associating poles, brake scissors, turbo warm exchangers, and so on [14].

Aluminum's popularity originates from its lightweight properties, ability to undergo strength-boosting heat treatment, and cost-effective manufacture as a high-performance material [15], supported by an impressive strength-to-weight ratio [16]. Furthermore, it has good thermal conductivity, a low coefficient of thermal expansion, great wear and corrosion resistance [17]. Among the various aluminum alloys, 6xxx series has emerged as extremely promising candidates for metal matrix composites (MMCs) in

automotive applications, thanks to their outstanding combination of increased wear resistance and heat treatability [18–20]. These alloys have excellent mechanical qualities, formability, corrosion resistance, lightweight [21], as well as fracture and fatigue resistance [22]. They also have high corrosion resistance, cost-effectiveness, great thermal and electrical conductivity, amazing formability, and superior weldability [23].

The fabrication of AMMCs relies on factors such as the matrix and reinforcement materials, microstructure integrity, mechanical, electrochemical, and thermal properties [24]. The inclusion of reinforcements improves physical, thermal, chemical, and mechanical qualities while reducing weight, resulting in higher fuel efficiency [25]. Particulate-reinforced aluminum metal matrix composites have received attention for their improved mechanical and tribological properties [26], with particle reinforcements including TiB<sub>2</sub>, CNTs, , and graphite [27], SiC, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, TiC, and B<sub>4</sub>C [28], and TiC, WC, and Al<sub>2</sub>Cu [29]. Aluminum-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> structure providing considerable thermal conductivity [30]. Aluminum-SiC metal matrix composites meet the needs of the automotive, aerospace, and electrical industries [31].

Overall, the demand for high strength to weight ratio drive the development of advanced aluminum metal matrix composite. The 6xxx series aluminum alloys (Al–Mg–Si) are among the most widely used aluminum alloy due to their superior mechanical properties, excellent weldability, formability, and processing capabilities, low density, and corrosion resistance. Although many researchers have studied numerous 6xxx series composites, there is few review on 6xxx series composites advancement and application to the best of the author's knowledge. The main objective of this study is to review the various possible AMMCs fabricated through stir casting with 6xxx as the matrix material. The authors aim to discuss the recent advancement in 6xxx AMMCs, advanced automotive application, processing technique, and the physical, mechanical, and tribological properties of 6xxx AMMCs, existing challenges and future research direction. The subsequent sections of this work are organized as follows: Section 2 addresses 6xxx Series aluminum alloys. Section 3 explores processing techniques for 6xxx Series AMMCs. Section 4 examines the physical, mechanical, and tribological properties of 6xxx Series AMMCs. Section 5 examines the physical, mechanical, and tribological properties of 6xxx Series AHMMCs. Section 6 examine the advancement in automotive application. Section 7 discusses current challenges and potential research directions. Finally, concludes this review study.

## 2. 6xxx Series Aluminum Alloys

The 6xxx series aluminum alloys consist of a group of aluminum alloys that primarily incorporate magnesium and silicon as alloying elements [32]. Copper, magnesium, manganese, silicon, and zinc are some of the typical alloying elements incorporated in these alloys [33]. One of the notable characteristics of 6xxx series alloys is their precipitation hardening ability. Through heat treatment processes, the alloying elements form fine precipitates that enhance the mechanical properties and further improve the strength of the material [34]. The 6xxx series aluminum alloys (Al–Si–Mg) are well-known for their high strength-to-density ratio, low cost, ease of production, desirable physical qualities, and resistance to corrosion [35]. They are distinguished by their non-corrosive characteristics, low density, affordability, good thermal and electrical conductivity, excellent formability, and weldability. AA6xxx alloys are essential for applications in lightweight military vehicles, rockets, missiles, aircraft, and cars, serving both defense and civil purposes [36,37].

The 6xxx series AMMCs can be reinforced with various materials to enhance their mechanical properties. These reinforcements consist of materials such as SiC, B<sub>4</sub>C, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, TiC, Si<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>, BN, ZrO<sub>2</sub>, and others [37]. Silicon carbide (SiC) is used as reinforcement, which has high strength and stiffness and excellent thermal conductivity [38]. By utilizing the efficient stir casting technique, a composite was created by adding silicon carbide (SiC) to aluminum alloy 6063 in varying mass ratios of 5%, 7.5%, 10%, 12.5%, and 15% [39]. The addition of SiC, B<sub>4</sub>C, and graphite, to an aluminum matrix can significantly improve both the mechanical and tribological properties of the composite material [40]. Hardness and compressive strength increase with an increase in the wt% of TiC reinforcement on aluminum [41]. AA6061-B<sub>4</sub>C metal matrix composites (MMCs) were produced using an ultra-sonic assisted stir casting technique with varying B<sub>4</sub>C weight percentages (0, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 8%). The incorporation and distribution of B<sub>4</sub>C particles into the AA6061 matrix were successfully achieved up to 4 wt% B<sub>4</sub>C. The improvement of ultimate tensile strength (36.32%), specific compressive strength (43.92%), specific vickers hardness (53.41%), and specific brinell hardness (50.89%) [42]. AA6061 with B<sub>4</sub>C (5%, 10%, and 15%) and Gr (10%, 15%, and 20%), dual stir casting technique is employed. Particularly noteworthy is the successful dispersion of the reinforced materials, with minimal aggregation observed, especially in composites containing higher amounts of B<sub>4</sub>C and Gr [43]. AA6061, serving as a base material, reinforced with wt% of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> particle size 24µm by vacuum stir casting. Composites showed significant improvements in wear resistance in contrast to the base alloys, due to the presence of alumina [44]. In case of AA6061, the hardness of the composite increases when the B<sub>4</sub>C addition increases in the AA6061 [45]. Through stir casting, AA6063 was combined with 5% Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, where Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> played a crucial role for enhancing the micro hardness and toughness of the developed metal matrix composites [46].

## 3. Processing Techniques for 6xxx Series AMMCs

Various processes are used for the fabrication of metal matrix composites, including stir casting, infiltration, diffusion bonding, powder metallurgy, deposition technique, spray forming, and electroplating [47]. Main fabrication methods for aluminum metal matrix composites can be classified as solid-state and liquid state processing. Stir casting is the most common liquid-state process used for AMMCs because it is simple to operate, cost-effective, and provides uniform distribution of particles. Powder metallurgy is a solid state for fabrication; it provides uniform distribution of particles but is costlier than stir casting. Compo casting, squeeze casting, friction stir casting, spray casting, etc. are the other manufacturing processes used, but to a lesser extent [48]. From the different fabrication methods, stir casting, powder metallurgy, and centrifugal casting are the most common metal matrix composite fabrication methods because of their simplicity and cost-effectiveness [49]. The most viable method to develop AMMCs is stir casting and powder metallurgy [50]. As shown in Figure 1, stir casting is the favored way for producing aluminum

metal matrix composites due to its simplicity, established process, cost-effectiveness, and mass-production capacity [51,52]. Stir casting is widely recognized for its versatility, market viability, and durability in the production of AMMCs [53]. Its adaptability is especially useful for manufacturing large, somewhat enclosed components [54,55]. However, challenges in fabrication through stir casting, such as poor wettability, agglomeration, clustering, uneven dispersal, and undesired chemical reactions between matrix and reinforcement, defines material properties [56]. The mechanical properties of composites are influenced by factors such as the weight percentage of reinforcement particles, preheat temperature, and melting temperature. The selection of appropriate reinforcement materials and the optimization of stir casting parameters pose challenges in the fabrication of new materials while maintaining desired mechanical properties [57]. Mechanical properties increase with increasing stirring speed and time in the composite because of the homogenous distribution of particle reinforcement in the aluminum matrix at maximum speed and time [58]. The study explores how the fabrication process of AA6061/zirconia nanocomposites is affected by ultrasonic-assisted stir casting conditions. The results show that specific processing factors affect grain refinement, homogeneous dispersion, and nanoparticle clustering [59].

Various research studies have highlighted the extensive use and suitability of the stir-casting method for crafting AA6061 composites [60], including AA6061/SiC/fly ash [61], AA6061 with Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and fly ash [62], AA6061 with different weight percentages of Silicon Carbide (SiC-40nm) [63], AA6061 with varying weight percentages of SiC, and more [64,65], AA6061 with SiC, Fly Ash, and Coconut Coir Ash have been examined [66]. Additionally, studies have been conducted on AA6063 with B<sub>4</sub>C + Graphite (Gr.) and B<sub>4</sub>C + Groundnut Shell Powder (GSA) [67], aluminum (6061-T6) with B<sub>4</sub>C [68], and the successful fabrication of an aluminum matrix hybrid composite involving AA6061, 7% Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, and X wt% SiC (X = 10, 15, and 20%) was achieved using the stir casting method [69].

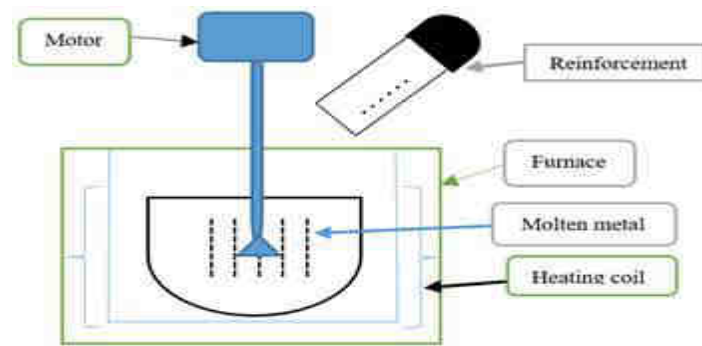


Figure 1. Schematic diagram of stir casting.

#### 4. Physical, Mechanical, and Tribological Properties of 6xxx Series AMMCs

Aluminum metal matrix composites (AMMCs) are in high demand within the automotive, aerospace, and aviation industries due to their exceptional combination of properties. Researchers are actively exploring ways to further enhance these properties. Aluminum alloys are widely utilized in the automotive and aerospace sectors due to their low density, excellent mechanical characteristics, and low thermal coefficient of expansion compared to other metals and alloys. However, the production of AMMCs presents certain challenges that contribute to their complexity and cost. These challenges include issues such as inadequate wettability between the reinforcement phase and the molten metal, scattering, agglomeration of particles, and matrix interface debonding. This limitation hampers the effectiveness of traditional casting techniques [70]. The microstructure analysis of the AA6063-T6 hybrid composite, produced using the stir casting method, indicates the presence of minimal porosity within the composite structure as observed through FESEM analysis [71]. During the fabrication of AA6061/Graphene nano platelets (GNPs) composite using the bottom pouring stir casting method, an issue arises with the non-uniform distribution of GNPs within the composite [72]. Researchers have extensively investigated the incorporation of agricultural-industrial waste materials with synthetic reinforcements in hybrid metal matrix composites (HMMCs) and metal matrix composites (MMCs) using liquid metallurgy techniques. However, several challenges have been encountered in this process. These challenges include the non-homogeneous dispersion of reinforcement, the formation of porosity, and poor wettability [73]. The AA6061 alloy was reinforced with nano-sized SiC, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, and TiO<sub>2</sub> particles. Morphological studies revealed a homogeneous distribution of the reinforcements, with nominal clustering as well as instances of agglomeration and cavities shrinking observed on the cermets [74]. AA6061 is a highly utilized aluminum alloy from the 6xxx series known for its exceptional properties, including formability, medium to good strength, excellent environmental resistance, low density, high elongation at break, and superior machinability. AA6061 is a popular choice as a matrix material, due to its ability to modify composite strength through appropriate heat treatment techniques [75]. The composites of AA6061 alloy exhibit superior performance and material characteristics when compared to the base alloy [76]. AA6061 composites are the most interesting engineering materials that have the ability to fulfill the demands of recent engineering applications used in the automobile, defense, aerospace, and marine industries [77].

##### 4.1 Mechanical Properties of AMMCs

Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (0-4 wt%) were added to an AA6061 alloy through stir casting technique. As the weight fraction of aluminum oxide particles increased in the aluminum matrix, the hardness, ultimate tensile strength, and compression strength of the composite of AA6061 alloy also increased. These enhanced mechanical properties make the developed metal matrix composite ideal for automotive applications, surpassing the performance of the AA6061 alloy alone [78]. The composite was fabricated from

AA6063/wt% SiC (2, 4, 6, and 8) with a 10 $\mu$ m average particle size by ultrasonic-assisted stir casting. Melting temperature of 750 °C, preheating temperature of 250 °C for one hour, and stirring speed of 500 rpm for 15 minutes. The mechanical properties of composites increase with an increase in the wt% of SiC up to 4% beyond reduction. The 4 wt% of SiC stir cast composite subjected to ultrasonic waves showed 51.17%, 67.52%, and 38.31% increases in UTS, yield strength, and hardness, respectively, compared with the base alloy [79]. As increasing reinforcement of SiC particles to AA6061 leads to an increase in the hardness value of the composite. The maximum hardness value of 110RB was obtained with the inclusion of 15 wt% SiC in AA6061 [80]. AA6063 is reinforced with nano SiC wt% of (1, 1.5, and 2) by the ultrasonic-assisted stir casting method. The particle size of SiC is 23nm. The micro hardness (HRF) values are 54.423, 64.926, and 68.006 with respective increments in wt%. observed excellent distribution of nano SiC, which results in better mechanical properties [81].

#### 4.2 Tribological Properties of AMMCs

AA6061 alloys have traditionally been extensively utilized in the automobile industry. However, these alloys have certain limitations, including moderate strength and wear resistance. To overcome these drawbacks, modern approaches involve incorporating ceramic reinforcements such as silicon carbide and graphite into the matrix of the aluminum alloy. By doing so, the strength and wear resistance properties of the composite material are significantly enhanced [82]. The AA6061 with 6 wt% Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> composite displayed excellent wear resistance [83]. When produced through stir casting, the AA6061-SiC composite demonstrates a lower volumetric wear rate compared to pure AA6061, showcasing the enhanced wear resistance property, due to the presence of silicon carbide in the aluminum matrix. This phenomenon can be attributed to the role of SiC in carrying the applied load and stresses, thereby preventing plastic deformation and reducing the wear rate. The increase in the overall strength of the composite with higher SiC percentages, also contributes to the decrease in wear rate [84]. AA6061-SiC composites with varying SiC content (3%, 6%, 9%, and 12%) and a constant volume fraction of graphite (5%) were fabricated using the stir casting method. The unreinforced alloy exhibits lower wear resistance compared to the aluminum metal matrix composite (AMMC). Increasing the reinforcement in a material leads to an increase in wear resistance [85].

Stir casting is used to produce the Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-reinforced AA6061 metal matrix composite. The composition is AA6061- Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (1-2%, 4%) with particle sizes of 24–32 micrometers. The melting temperature is 780 °C, preheating temperature of reinforcement is 400 °C, the die is preheated to 200 °C and the stir speed is 600 rpm. AA6061 has hardness (68 HV), ultimate tensile strength (125 Mpa), %elongation (5.8), and compression strength (22610 N/m<sup>2</sup>), AA6061/2% Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> has hardness (75 HV), Ultimate tensile strength (143 Mpa), %elongation (4.27), and compression strength (24030 N/m<sup>2</sup>), AA6061/4% Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> has hardness (81 HV), Ultimate tensile strength (164 Mpa), %elongation (3.03), and compression strength (24660 N/m<sup>2</sup>). Hardness, ultimate tensile strength, and compression strength increase within increase reinforcement, but %elongation decreases. This developed metal matrix composite can be used in aircraft fittings, couplings, brake pistons, hydraulic pistons, and valve parts [86].

AA6061/3.5%, 7%, and 10.5% of B<sub>4</sub>C reinforcement by stir casting. The stirring speed is 700 rpm for 10 minutes, the stirrer blade angle is 30 °, and the melting temperature is 760 °C. The AA6061/3.5% B<sub>4</sub>C, hardness (67.6 HV), tensile strength 176.49 Mpa, yield strength 149.94 Mpa, and % elongation (6.43). The AA6061/7% B<sub>4</sub>C hardness (70 HV), tensile strength (186.09 Mpa), yield strength (147.83 Mpa), and %elongation (6.60). The AA6061/10.5% B<sub>4</sub>C hardness (59.3 HV), tensile strength (141.98 Mpa), yield strength (94.81 Mpa), and % elongation (9.14). Hardness and tensile strength increase up to AA6061/7% B<sub>4</sub>C and further decrease. Yield strength decreases as reinforcement increases. where %elongation increases as reinforcement increase [87]. Hardness and tensile strength increase up to AA6061/7% B<sub>4</sub>C further decrease, yield strength decrease as reinforcement increases, and percent of elongation increase as reinforcement increases.

#### 5. Physical, Mechanical, and Tribological properties of Aluminum Hybrid Metal Matrix Composites (AHMMCs)

AA6061 has moderate strength, good corrosion resistance, and toughness compared to other aluminum alloys. AA6061 is reinforced with 5% SiC, 5% Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, and 5% fly ash (15%), 7.5% SiC, 7.5% Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> & 5%fly ash=20%), and (10%SiC,10% Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> & 5%fly ash=25%) by stir casting. Tensile strength increases up to 25% with reinforcement. yield strength and hardness increase up to 20% of reinforcement and decrease further [88]. The combination of AA601/5% Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, AA601/5%Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, 8%BA (bagasse ash) (37 m), AA6061/1% Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>,8%BA (53  $\mu$ m), and AA6061/5% Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>,8%BA (75  $\mu$ m) by stir casting. The hybrid composite gave better mechanical properties than the base material by using smaller particle size reinforcement; however, increasing particle size decreases mechanical properties [89]. In the AA6061 matrix, titanium diboride (TiB<sub>2</sub>) reinforcement addition ranged from 0 to 6 wt%, while a fixed graphite reinforcement of 4 wt% was added through stir casting. The ultimate tensile strength (UTS) of the AA6061-TiB<sub>2</sub>-Gr aluminum hybrid metal matrix composites (AHMMCs) increased by 64% as the content of TiB<sub>2</sub> particles increased from 0 to 6 wt%. Additionally, the increase in hardness of the Al6061-TiB<sub>2</sub>-Gr HMMCs resulted in enhanced strength, as demonstrated by effective load distribution from the matrix to the reinforcement particulates. It was observed that the percent elongation of the HMMCs decreased by 29% as the TiB<sub>2</sub> content increased from 0 to 6 wt% [90].

The composition of composites is AA6063+5% fly ash, AA6063+5% SiC, and AA6063+5% fly ash +5% SiC by stir casting. Hardness at AA6063+5%flyash +5% SiC is 100 BHN, among others, so it can be used for automotive and aircraft industries where hardness is an important property for design components [91].

Composites prepared AA6061/0.5wt%SiC+1.5wt%B<sub>4</sub>C and AA6061/1.5wt%SiC+1.5wt%B<sub>4</sub>C ceramic nanoparticles by using conventional stir casting. The enhanced wear properties of composites are achieved because of the addition of SiC and B<sub>4</sub>C nanoparticles [92].

Fabrication of AA6061/2%SiC3%ZrO<sub>2</sub>, AA6061/4% SiC3%ZrO<sub>2</sub> and AA6061/6% SiC3%ZrO<sub>2</sub> through stir casting involved a matrix melting temperature of 740 °C, stirring speed of 350 rpm, and preheated temperature set at 300 °C. The hardness, tensile strength, compressive strength, and impact energy all demonstrated an increase with the rise in the weight percentage of SiC and



ZrO<sub>2</sub> reinforcement. AA6061/6%SiC3%ZrO<sub>2</sub> shows a hardness value of 95.5 BHN, 39% improved from the matrix material, tensile strength value of 384.4 MPa, improved by 20.4%, compressive strength value of 255.47 MPa, improved by 24.2% from the matrix. The prepared AA6061/6%SiC3%ZrO<sub>2</sub> composite had better mechanical and metallurgical properties, this combination was recommended for automotive and aerospace component applications [93].

AA6061 is reinforced with SiC & Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> through stir casting. Tensile strength and hardness were improved at 7.5% SiC and 7.5% Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> in the AA6061 matrix material. Fracture toughness and ductility were continuously decreased by adding SiC & Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> to the AA6061 matrix material [94]. Metal matrix composites of AA6061/SiC/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> by bottom pouring stir casting process. AA6061 is preheated to 300 °C, melting temperature 750 °C, preheating reinforcements at 300 °C for 60 min, stirrer speed 650 rpm for 10 min, impeller stage is one, impeller angle 29 °C. The AA6061 tensile strength (106.1N/mm<sup>2</sup>), and hardness (28 HV). The AA6061/5%SiC tensile strength (108.8N/mm<sup>2</sup>), and hardness (30 HV). The AA6061/7% SiC tensile strength (121.4N/mm<sup>2</sup>), and hardness (32HV). The AA6061/5%SiC3% Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> tensile strength (134.3N/mm<sup>2</sup>), and hardness (35HV). The tensile strength, and hardness of the composite increase as reinforcement increases due to uniform particle distribution. An optical micrograph shows a uniform distribution of reinforcement. The wear rate decreases or wear resistance increases when the amount of reinforcement increases [95].

AA6061 was reinforced with wt%10 of (5% ZrO<sub>2</sub>+5% Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) average particle size 55-65 micrometers in order to attain good bonding with the metal matrix by stir casting. The experimental result shows an increase in hardness, tensile strength, wear resistance, and reduced corrosion rate [96].

AA6061 metal matrix reinforced with Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, bagasse ash by vacuum-assisted stir casting. Used Mg, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> particle size 53 µm, BA particle size 38 micrometers, pouring temperature 700 °C, reinforcement preheated temperature is 400 °C, mold temperature 210±10 °C, and stirring speed 500±10 rpm for 5-7 minutes. The composition is AA6061- 5%Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, has a tensile strength (138.5 MPa), ductility (8.2%), hardness (30.2 HV), compressive strength (310 MPa), impact (6.9 J), density (2.747g/cc<sup>3</sup>), and porosity (0.94%). AA6061- 5%Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> 4%BA, having tensile strength (146.8 MPa), ductility (8.6%), hardness (32.8 HV), compressive strength (347 MPa), impact (6.4 J), density (2.711g/cc<sup>3</sup>), and porosity (1.2%). AA6061- 5%Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> 6%BA, having tensile strength (151.1 MPa), ductility (7.4%), hardness (35.2 HV), compressive strength (380 MPa), impact (5.8 J), density (2.705g/cc<sup>3</sup>), and porosity (1.5%). AA6061- 5%Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> 8%BA, having tensile strength (141.9 MPa), ductility (5.9%), hardness (28.4 HV), compressive strength (411 MPa), impact (5.2 J), density (2.665g/cc<sup>3</sup>), and porosity (2.26%). Tensile strength and hardness show increments up to AA6061- 5%Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> 6%BA, further decreasing; however, the decreased values of hardness and tensile strength are higher than the single matrix. Ductility shows a decrease as reinforcement increases but increases at AA6061- 5%Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> 4%BA. Compressive strength showed an increment as reinforcement increased. Impact and density decrease as reinforcement increases. Porosity increases when reinforcement increases. Microstructural analysis shows the presence of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> & BA in AA6061 and a fairly uniform distribution up to AA6061- 5%Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> 6%BA but further voids and clustering are observed. The microstructure, as depicted in Figure 2, makes it evident that Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and BA are present inside the metal matrix and are distributed pretty uniformly within the AA6061. Nonetheless, samples containing a larger weight percentage of BA showed some pores and particle clumping. Additionally, it showed that up to 6 wt% of BA, the cast samples AA6061/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/BA had a homogenous and fair distribution with little agglomeration; above this, considerable particle clustering and voids were found [97].

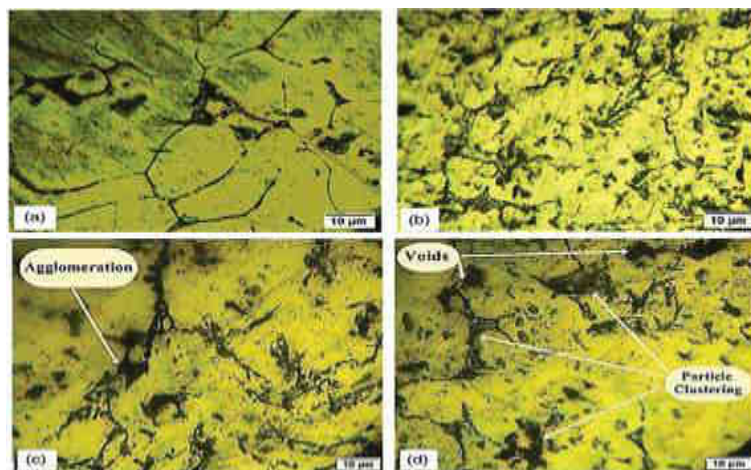


Figure 2. Optical microscopic photomicrograph of reinforced AA6061/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/BA with 5 wt%Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and 4, 6, and 8wt% BA at 600x (a) AA6061+5wt%Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (600x), (b) AA6061+5wt%Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> +4wt%BA(600x), (c) AA6061+5wt%Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> +6wt%BA(600x), and (d) AA6061+5wt%Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> +8wt%BA(600x) [97].

AA6103 is reinforced with Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and SiC by stir casting. The composition of composites is, AA6103/1% Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/2%SiC, AA6103/1%Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>+4%SiC, AA6103/1%Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>+6%SiC, AA6103/1%Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>+8%SiC. The microstructure shows a fairly uniform distribution of reinforcements. The density of composites decreases with an increase in reinforcement because of the volatile nature of ceramic particles. The hardness of composites increases with an increase in reinforcement materials. The wear rate increases with an increase in load. At higher load wear rate of the composites was higher due to a higher coefficient of friction. At higher reinforcement content, wear rate is lower because ceramic particles provide a lubricating film on the counter surface, which lowers the coefficient of friction, and lowers the wear rate of composite [98]. AA6061 is reinforced with Zn, Gr, Si, and Cr by stir

casting. AA6061 has tensile strength ( $310.7 \text{ N/mm}^2$ ), yield strength ( $275.7 \text{ N/mm}^2$ ), % elongation (18.2), wear (0.0046), and hardness ( $94.6 \text{ N/mm}^2$ ). AA6061 reinforced with 0.5% Zn, 0.5% Gr, 0.5% Si, and 0.5% Cr at a temperature of  $923^\circ\text{C}$ , tensile strength ( $324 \text{ N/mm}^2$ ), yield strength ( $283 \text{ N/mm}^2$ ), % elongation (19.5), wear at 300 rpm (0.0037), and hardness ( $96 \text{ N/mm}^2$ ). AA6061 reinforced with (1% Zn, 1% Gr, 1% Si, and 1% Cr) at temperature  $1027^\circ\text{C}$ , tensile strength ( $316 \text{ N/mm}^2$ ), yield strength ( $279 \text{ N/mm}^2$ ), % elongation (18.4), wear at 300 rpm (0.0039), and hardness ( $96.8 \text{ N/mm}^2$ ). AA6061 reinforced with (1.5% Zn, 1.5% Gr, 1.5% Si, and 1.5% Cr) at a temperature of  $1140^\circ\text{C}$ , tensile strength ( $377 \text{ N/mm}^2$ ), yield strength ( $321 \text{ N/mm}^2$ ), % elongation (18), wear at 300 rpm (0.0042), and hardness ( $96.3 \text{ N/mm}^2$ ). All mechanical and tribological properties were improved at AA6061 reinforced with (0.5% Zn, 0.5% Gr, 0.5% Si, and 0.5% Cr), but the hardness value was better at AA6061 reinforced with (1% Zn, 1% Gr, 1% Si, and 1% Cr). To determine the morphology of the composite, scanning electron microscopy (SEM) was used to examine its surface. The surface of the composite samples is shown in Figure 3, below, which reveals that there was no particle segregation of silicon, zinc, graphite, or chromium, indicating that the mixture was homogeneous [99].

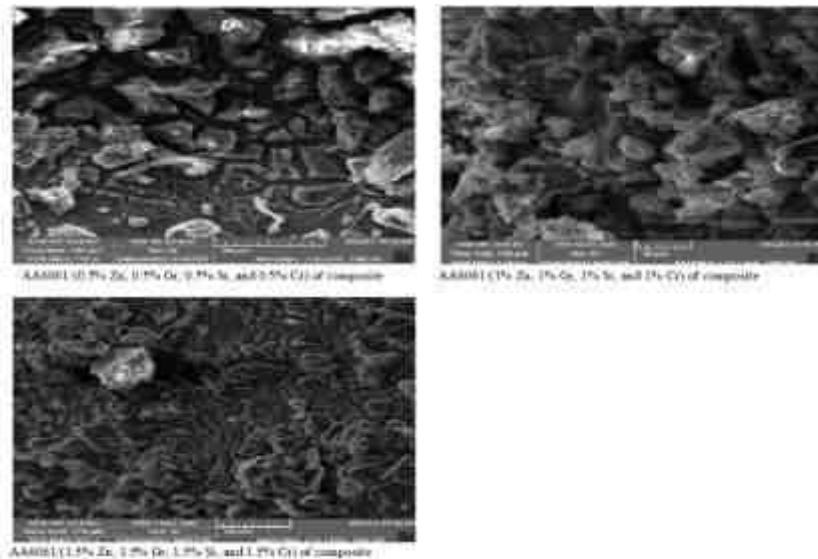


Figure 3. SEM image of AA6061 reinforced with ( 0.5% Zn, 0.5% Gr, 0.5% Si, 0.5% Cr, (1% Zn, 1% Gr, 1% Si, and 1% Cr) , 1.5% Zn, 1.5% Gr, 1.5% Si, and 1.5% Cr) composite [99].

The hybrid metal matrix composite of AA6063/SiC and AA6063/SiC/Gr combination by stir casting. SiC particle size is  $37\mu\text{m}$  preheated at  $650^\circ\text{C}$  for 120 min, and Gr particle size is  $40\mu\text{m}$  preheated at  $1000^\circ\text{C}$  for 120 min. melting temperature is  $760^\circ\text{C} \pm 100^\circ\text{C}$ , stirrer speed 500 rpm for 10–20 min. 1-2wt% Mg has been added. The mold was preheated at  $300^\circ\text{C}$  for 30 minutes. The melt was degasified by using solid hexachloroethane ( $\text{C}_2\text{Cl}_6$ ). The AA6063/2.5% SiC/2.5% Gr tensile strength is 164.38 MPa, and the density ( $2.66 \text{ gm/cc}$ ). The AA6063/5%SiC/5%Gr tensile strength is 190.48 MPa, and its density (is  $2.64 \text{ gm/cc}$ ). The AA6063/7.5%SiC/7.5%Gr tensile strength ( $200.32 \text{ MPa}$ ) and density ( $2.63 \text{ gm/cc}$ ). The AA6063/5%SiC tensile strength ( $142.46 \text{ MPa}$ ) and density ( $2.7 \text{ gm/cc}$ ). The AA6063/10%SiC tensile strength ( $160.84 \text{ MPa}$ ) and density ( $2.71 \text{ gm/cc}$ ). The AA6063/15%SiC tensile strength ( $184.26 \text{ MPa}$ ) and density ( $2.73 \text{ gm/cc}$ ). The tensile strength increases as SiC/Gr increases, whereas density decreases as wt% SiC/Gr increases. The tensile strength increases as the wt% of SiC increases, and the density increases as the wt% of SiC increases. SEM analysis showed a uniform distribution of SiC and Gr in the matrix without any tunneling or voiding effects. SiC/Gr composites could be used as light weight engineering materials. With the help of a scanning electron microscope (SEM) as shown in Figure 4, the microstructure of AMMCs shows that the SiC particles (black) are spread out almost evenly, with some clustering. The cast specimen likewise shows negligible porosity (2%). The dispersion of SiC particles is readily seen in the 5-wt% SiC composite. Furthermore, the presence of SiC can be seen in Figure 2, indicating that the particle mixture was homogeneous due to the absence of SiC particle segregation. No voids were discovered during SEM analysis. The matrix contains graphite particles (gray and white), which are evenly dispersed and appear to be well bound [100].

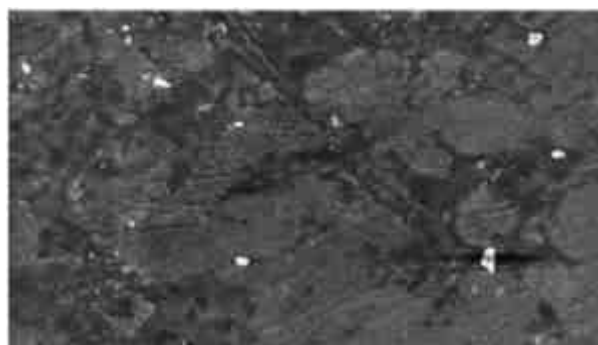


Figure 4. SEM images of (AA6063/5% SiC composite) [100].

The composite produced by AA6063 is reinforced by SiC and TiC by stir casting. The composition is AA6063/1% SiC1%TiC, AA6063/1% SiC1.5%TiC, AA6063/1% SiC2%TiC, and AA6063/1% SiC2.5%TiC. The density of composites decreases with an increase in reinforcement content due to the volatile nature of ceramic particles. The hardness of composites increases with increased reinforcement. The wear rate of composites increases with increasing loads. At higher reinforcement content, the wear rate is lower because ceramic particles provide a lubricating film on the counter surface, which lowers the coefficient of friction, lowers the wear rate of the composite [101].

As shown in Table 1, the mechanical properties of aluminum composites are significantly influenced by the level of reinforcement. Hardness, compressive strength, and ultimate tensile strength increase with, while elongation decrease [86]. In AA6061/7%B4C composite, hardness, tensile strength, and yield strength increase initially but decline beyond this reinforcement level [87]. Hardness, tensile strength, and wear resistance generally improve with reinforcement [95]. However, AA6061-5%Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> - 6%BA composites, compressive strength and porosity increase, and while density, ductility, and impact strength as reinforcement level rise [97]. Hardness increase with reinforcement but eventually decline, at AA6061 reinforced with AA6061 - 1.5% Zn, 1.5% Gr, 1.5% Si, and 1.5% Cr tensile strength and yield strength decrease as reinforcement increase, while elongation decrease and wear resistance improve [99]. Tensile strength increases as reinforcement increases up to AA6063/7.5%SiC7.5%Gr but further decreases, and density decreases up to AA6063/7.5%SiC7.5% Gr further increases [100].

Table 1. Summary of physical, mechanical, and tribological properties of 6xxx AMMCs and AHMMCs.

Composition	Fabrication method	Hardness	Tensile strength	Compressive strength	Ultimate tensile strength	Yield strength	Density (g/cc)	Ductility	Porosity	Impact	Percent of elongation	Wear rate	Ref.
AA6061	stir casting	88 HV		23810 N/mm <sup>2</sup>	133 MPa						5.8		[86]
AA6061/2% Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>		75 HV		24030 N/mm <sup>2</sup>	143 MPa						4.27		
AA6061/4% Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>		81 HV		24080 N/mm <sup>2</sup>	164 MPa						3.03		
AA6061/3.3% B <sub>4</sub> C	stir casting	87.6 HV	176.49 MPa			149.94 MPa					6.43		[87]
AA6061/7% B <sub>4</sub> C		79 HV	186.09 MPa			147.87 MPa					6.61		
AA6061/10.3% B <sub>4</sub> C		92.1 HV	141.98 MPa								9.18		
AA6061	stir casting	28 HV	106.18 N/mm <sup>2</sup>										[95]
AA6061/9%SiC		30 HV	106.36 N/mm <sup>2</sup>										
AA6061/7%SiC		32HV	121.47N/mm <sup>2</sup>										
AA6061/5%SiC/2%Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>		33HV	134.37N/mm <sup>2</sup>										
AA6061/3%Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	Vacuum assisted stir casting	30.2 HV	135.5 MPa	310 MPa			2.747	8.2%	0.94%	6.9 J			[97]
AA6061/3%Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> /4%BA		32.8 HV	146.8 MPa	347 MPa			2.711	8.6%	1.2%	6.4 J			
AA6061/3%Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> /6%BA		35.2 HV	151.1 MPa	380 MPa			2.703	7.4%	1.9%	5.5 J			
AA6061/3%Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> /8%BA		28.4 HV	141.9 MPa	411 MPa			2.665	5.9%	2.26%	5.2 J			
AA6061	stir casting	94.6 N/mm <sup>2</sup>	310.7 N/mm <sup>2</sup>			275.72N/mm <sup>2</sup>					18.2	0.0048	[99]
AA6061-(0.5% Zn, 0.5% Gr, 0.5% Si, and 0.5% Cr)		98 N/mm <sup>2</sup>	324 N/mm <sup>2</sup>			283.76N/mm <sup>2</sup>					19.5	0.0037	
AA6061-(1% Zn, 1% Gr, 1% Si, and 1% Cr)		95.8 N/mm <sup>2</sup>	316 N/mm <sup>2</sup>			279 N/mm <sup>2</sup>					18.4	0.0039	
AA6061-(1.5% Zn, 1.5% Gr, 1.5% Si, and 1.5% Cr)		95.3 N/mm <sup>2</sup>	317 N/mm <sup>2</sup>			321 N/mm <sup>2</sup>					18	0.0042	
AA6063/2.5%SiC/2.5%Gr	stir casting		184.38MPa				2.66						[100]
AA6063/5%SiC/5%Gr			180.43MPa				2.64						
AA6063/7.5%SiC/7.5%Gr			200.32MPa				2.63						
AA6063/5%SiC			142.46MPa				2.7						
AA6063/5%SiC			160.84MPa				2.71						
AA6063/10%SiC			184.29MPa				2.73						
AA6063/15%SiC													

## 6. Advancements in Automotive Application

Composite materials exhibit superior mechanical properties compared to conventional materials. The exceptional resistance to corrosion and wear exhibited by AMMCs positions them as highly promising materials for a wide range of applications, including structural, automotive, marine, and aerospace industries [102], due to its low production cost and desirable mechanical characteristics [103]. SiC and Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-based aluminum composites have improved strength and damping properties compared to steel-based IC engine mounts. With their mechanical properties and vibration characteristics, the AA6061-SiC and AA6061-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> AMMCs mounts are suitable for engine mount vibration isolation. Moreover, the AA6061-SiC mounts are able to exhibit better performance than the Al6061-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> mounts [104]. Aluminum is commonly used in the production of pistons [105]. In operation, pistons are subjected to cyclic gas pressure and inertial stresses that they must endure [106]. According to Rashmita, Sumi Singh et al. [107] the AA6061-B4C-SiC composite is considered ideal material for pistons due to its superior properties.

Aluminum demonstrates excellent performance under pressure [108]. Substituting the conventional connecting rod material with Al-Cu-Mg/bean pod ash nanoparticle biocomposites, led to a fuel efficiency enhancement of 0.36%. This change not only provided good strength and reduced weight, but also induced stress in the structure, resulting in improved fuel efficiency [109]. In this setup, AA6061 (90%) served as the matrix, with the addition of 10% boron carbide through powder mixing [110]. The composite derived from aluminum alloy and silicon carbide exhibits an array of characteristics: durability, high corrosion resistance, exceptional thermal and electrical conductivity, good reflective properties, and more [111]. The components utilized in the production of crankshafts must possess strength, durability, and the ability to endure elevated levels of stress and temperature. Aluminum finds application in crankshaft manufacturing [112]. A camshaft is a cylindrical shaft with oblong moving elements known as cams, designed to transform rotational motion into linear motion. Silicon carbide particles have superior properties, such as higher modulus of elasticity, hardness, lower thermal expansion coefficient, and higher density compared to aluminum. When combined with aluminum alloys, these reinforced materials become highly desirable due to their enhanced properties [113]. As a result, aluminum-silicon alloy is rapidly used for its greater strength-to-weight ratio, increased wear resistance, lower density, and lower thermal expansion coefficient [114]. Aluminum alloys are the most widely used materials to manufacture the cylinder block [115- 118]. Al-Si alloys are preferable materials for cylinder block manufacture, subject to performance requirements and manufacturability issues [119]. The combination of aluminum with cast iron is employed to craft cylinder blocks that comply with carbon emission standards [120]. The aluminum alloy A6061 is specifically utilized in cylinder block fabrication [121], because



they have low specific gravity, ease of fabrication, corrosion resistance, and high thermal conductivity [122]. Aluminum alloy matrix-based hybrid composites are reinforced with silicon carbide and graphite particles to enhance strength [123]. In automotive applications, aluminum matrices reinforced with silicon carbide (SiC), aluminum oxide (Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>), graphite, and carbon are utilized for body structures [124].

An automobile drive shaft is an important component of a vehicle. Composite shafts provide better mechanical properties in comparison with steel shafts. In addition, the total weight of the shaft made of composite is lower in comparison with a steel shaft, which helps improve fuel consumption. The research also emphasizes the significance of advancing composite materials as a key area of focus [125]. Industrial vehicle transmission shafts made of composite materials (particularly carbon fibers) result in a final weight savings of up to 30 % compared to identical components made of steel with equal static and dynamic performance [126]. By using composite materials, about 81% of weight savings are achieved and the vehicle weight is reduced when compared to a steel shaft [127]. R. Siva et al. [128] studied spur gears are made from AA6061 composite with varying weight percentages of titanium carbide (TiC) with a grain size of 40  $\mu\text{m}$ . Metal matrix composite (MMC) brake discs provided better thermal and mechanical performance [129]. MMC have the possibility of substituting cast iron (Cx-24) for brake discs. The MMC limit is not less than 240 MPa (that is not less than the strength of CX-24) is achieved in a wide range of alloying components content and reinforcements [130]. AMMCs are valid for replacing existing materials for brake disc applications [131,132] According to P K Dinesh Kumar and S Darius Gnanaraj, automotive brake discs significantly contribute to vehicle weight, making lightweight aluminum discs a promising alternative to traditional cast iron or steel [133] Dong Tan et al. [134] fabricated lightweight hybrid composite brake discs using friction-stir processing, combining an A357/SiC top layer with an AA6082 aluminum alloy base. These discs exhibit excellent wear and friction performance, with thermally stable SiC particles enhancing wear resistance, particularly at high temperatures. Their superior performance demonstrates their readiness to replace heavier iron and steel brake discs. K. Vinoth Babu et al. successfully fabricated an Al-SiC composite brake disc using the centrifugal casting technique .M. M. A. Baig et al. [135] highlighted that the AA6061-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> composite offers superior wear resistance and enhanced friction stability, making it an excellent material for brake disc applications [136]. Aluminum matrix with Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> exhibit exceptional mechanical and physical attributes, yielding excellent outcomes [137]. Additionally, an aluminum, silicon carbide, and fly ash hybrid composite by stir casting for brake disc [138].The 6xxx series, such as AA 6061, AA 6063, and AA 6082, are reported alloys for the brake disc matrix material [139]. AA6061 is reinforced with titanium diboride (TiB<sub>2</sub>) particles [140,141], A6061/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [142], AA6061/Alumina/Graphite [143], AA6061 matrix composite reinforced with rice husk ash (RHA) with a large amount of silica contained [144]. The brake system is composed of many different parts, including brake pads, a master cylinder, wheel cylinders, and a hydraulic control system. The brake pads are an important component in the braking system of an automobile [145]. Brake pads are designed for friction stability, durability, and the minimization of noise and vibration. The type of brake pads depends on the material from which they are made. Aluminum reinforced with zirconium oxide, silicon carbide, titanium oxide, graphite, coconut fiber, and phenolic resin, a metal matrix composite used for brake pads [146]. Natural fibers like palm kernel can replace asbestos in reinforcing friction composites for brake pad applications [147]. S. Anoop, S. et al. [148] studied the dry sliding wear behaviour of AA6082-SiC composite for brake pad application. A.A. Agbeleye et al. [149] investigated aluminum 6063 alloy-clay (Al-clay) composites for brake pad applications. A vehicle's wheel is an important component of its overall performance. It gives efficient movement for objects over a surface. Alloy wheels reduce the weight of the vehicle. When the weight of the rim is reduced, the overall efficiency will increase. AA6061-T4 and the magnesium alloy AZ80 are used for the wheel rim for the purpose of a weight reduction of nearly 58.33 % without any compromise on the safety parameters of the rim. Considering the cost of the material, it is found that aluminum alloy is comparatively cheaper than magnesium alloy [150].



Figure 2. Automotive application of 6xxx series metal matrix composites.

## 7. Existing Challenges and Future Research Directions

The existing AMMCs and AHMMCs physical, mechanical, and tribological properties are demanded. However, the production of AMMCs poses specific challenges that contribute to their complexity and cost. These challenges encompass issues such as inadequate wettability between reinforcements and molten metal, agglomeration, and debonding at the matrix interface, uneven distribution of particles, porosity, clustering, and voids. This hampers the effectiveness of traditional casting techniques and can lead to poor composite performance. While based on the Vickers hardness values of B4C (4000 kg/mm<sup>2</sup>), SiC (3000 kg/mm<sup>2</sup>),



and Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (1365 kg/mm<sup>2</sup>) [151], one might expect that the hardness of AA6061/3.5% B<sub>4</sub>C would surpass that of AA6061-2% Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and that AA6061-5% SiC would be greater than AA6061-5% Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, but the actual results contradict these assumptions. Specifically, the hardness values are as follows: AA6061-3.5% B<sub>4</sub>C (67.6 HV) [87], AA6061-2% Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (75 HV) [86], AA6061-5% SiC (30 HV) [95], and AA6061-5% Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (30.2 HV) [97], which were produced using stir casting. This discrepancy underscores the impact of factors such as stir casting parameters and other fabrication conditions on aluminum metal matrix composite fabrication, emphasizing the need for additional research to fully understand these results.

Developing techniques to enhance the wettability between the reinforcement phase and the molten metal is crucial for improving the bonding and overall performance of AMMCs. Exploring surface modification methods, interfacial engineering techniques can help address this challenge. Advancements in careful selection of matrix and reinforcement materials, process optimization, including refining the casting parameters and optimizing the stirring and solidification processes, can aid in minimizing porosity formation. Developing innovative processing methods and considering advanced fabrication techniques like additive manufacturing is crucial to ensuring a uniform distribution of reinforcement materials. Moreover, from the author's perspective, multi-scale modeling, and analysis integrating with coding may be used to resolve the composite properties. This numerical analysis with varying parameters should be employed, as this may significantly save research expense and time. Models to predict the composite properties should be developed.

## 8. Conclusion

The review concluded that the demand for lightweight, high-strength materials has driven the development of AMMCs. These composites provide advantages such as weight reduction, emissions control, improved fuel efficiency, and heightened vehicle performance. Notably, aluminum-magnesium-silicon alloys are emerging as promising options for AMMCs in automotive applications. The 6xxx series aluminum alloys exhibit impressive precipitation hardening abilities that enhance mechanical characteristics when subjected to heat treatment procedures. Renowned for their high strength-to-density ratio, cost-effectiveness, corrosion resistance, thermal and electrical conductivity, formability, and weldability, these alloys are indispensable for multiple industry applications. Within the 6xxx series, aluminum matrix composites can be strengthened by incorporating materials such as SiC, B<sub>4</sub>C, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, TiC, etc. to enhance their mechanical and tribological properties. Various fabrication methods, including stir casting, infiltration, diffusion bonding, powder metallurgy, deposition techniques, spray forming, and electroplating, are used to create metal matrix composites. AMMCs are commonly manufactured using solid-state and liquid-state processes. Stir casting, a popular liquid-state technique, is preferred for AMMCs due to its simplicity, cost-effectiveness, and ability to ensure uniform particle distribution. Despite its benefits, challenges like poor wettability, agglomeration, and uneven dispersal can impact material properties. Factors like reinforcement particle weight percentage, preheat temperature, and stirring speed and time play a role in influencing the mechanical properties of composites. Aluminum alloys, like AA6061, are favored in the automotive and aerospace industries for their lightweight, excellent mechanical characteristics, and low thermal expansion. However, producing AMMCs from these alloys poses challenges like wettability, particle scattering, agglomeration, and matrix debonding. Despite complexities, AMMCs derived from AA6061 are in high demand for diverse engineering applications across automotive, defense, aerospace, and marine industries. As increasing reinforcement, the 6xxx composites hardness, tensile strength, compressive strength, ultimate tensile strength (UTS), yield strength, and wear resistance show increments up to a certain limit, further decreasing, whereas density, ductility, percent of elongation, and porosity show decreasing up to a certain limit, further increasing. Porosity increases when reinforcement increases. Increasing particle size decreases mechanical properties. The density of composites decreases with an increase in reinforcement because of the volatile nature of ceramic particles. At higher reinforcement content, wear rate is lower because ceramic particles provide a lubricating film on the counter surface, which lowers the coefficient of friction and lowers the wear rate of composite. Composite materials, specifically 6xxx aluminum metal matrix composites (AMMCs) and (AHMMCs), offer superior mechanical properties, making them ideal for a wide range of applications in structural, automotive, marine, and aerospace industries. In the automotive industry, aluminum 6xxx AMMCs and HAMMCs are utilized in components like brake plates and drums, chamber blocks, pistons, crankshafts, connecting rods, camshafts, and cylinder blocks, wheel rims, brake pads, and drive shafts to enhance performance and reduce weight.

## Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

## Ethical approval

This work does not require any ethical statement.

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