# CONTENTS


| | PAGE |
|---|---|
| ENGLISH ABSTRACT | i |
| THAI ABSTRACT | ii |
| ACKNOWLEDGMENTS | v |
| CONTENTS | vi |
| LIST OF TABLES | viii |
| LIST OF FIGURES | ix |
| LIST ABBREVIATIONS | xii |

**CHAPTER**

| | |
|---|---|
| **1. INTRODUCTION** | **1** |
| 1.1 Motivation | 1 |
| 1.2 Research Objectives | 2 |
| 1.3 Research Boundaries | 2 |
| 1.4 Advantages and Applications | 2 |
| **2. REVIEW AND THEORY** | **4** |
| 2.1 Introduction of magnetic recording head and fabrication process | 4 |
| 2.2 Introduction of diamond-like carbon | 6 |
| 2.3 Structure of diamond-like carbon | 6 |
| 2.4 Deposition process | 8 |
| 2.5 Filtered cathodic arc deposition overview | 10 |
| 2.5.1 Filtered cathodic arc deposition | 10 |
| 2.5.2 Particle filter system and plasma transport efficiency | 11 |
| 2.6 Characterization of DLC films | 13 |
| 2.6.1 Raman spectroscopy for microstructure characterization | 13 |
| 2.6.2 X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy for material composition characterization | 16 |
| 2.6.3 Ellipsometry for optical property characterization | 20 |
| 2.6.4 Nanoindentation for wear resistance characterization | 21 |
| 2.6.5 Corrosion resistance test on magnetic recording head | 23 |
| 2.6.6 Atomic force microscopy for surface topography characterization | 24 |
| 2.7 Effect of thermal heating to microstructure and material composition | 25 |
| 2.8 Effect of thermal heating to wear resistance of DLC | 31 |
| 2.8.1 Wear behavior | 31 |
| 2.8.2 Effect of thermal heating on film wear resistance | 31 |
| 2.9 Effect of thermal heating of surface roughness of DLC | 33 |
| **3. EXPERIMENTATION AND METHODOLOGY** | **35** |
| 3.1 ta-C films deposition | 35 |
| 3.1.1 Surface cleaning by Ar ion beam etching | 35 |
| 3.1.2 Si-Si3N4 sputtering | 35 |
| 3.1.3 ta-DLC deposition | 35 |
| 3.1.4 Deposition tool | 36 |
| 3.2 Thermal heating condition | 37 |

# CONTENTS

**PAGE**

3.3 ta-C films characterization 38
3.3.1 Film structure characterization by Raman spectroscopy 38
3.3.2 Chemical bonding characterization by X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) 39
3.3.3 Wear resistance characterization by Nanoidenter 39
3.3.4 Corrosion resistance characterization by acid dip test 40
3.3.5 Optical property characterization by ellipsometer 40
3.3.6 Films density characterization by X-ray reflectivity (XRR) 41
3.3.7 Surface roughness characterization by Atomic Force Microscopic (AFM) 42

**4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS 43**
4.1 Effect of thermal heating on film structure 43
4.2 Effect of thermal heating on chemical bonding 46
4.3 Effect of thermal heating on wear resistance 51
4.4 Effect of thermal heating on corrosion resistance 52
4.5 Effect of thermal heating on film optical property 54
4.6 Effect of thermal heating on film density 54
4.7 Effect of thermal heating on surface roughness 55

**5. CONCLUSION 58**

**REFERENCES 59**

**CURRICULUM VITAE 63**