

# Interconnect-Coating Interactions: Transition Metal Spinel Oxides



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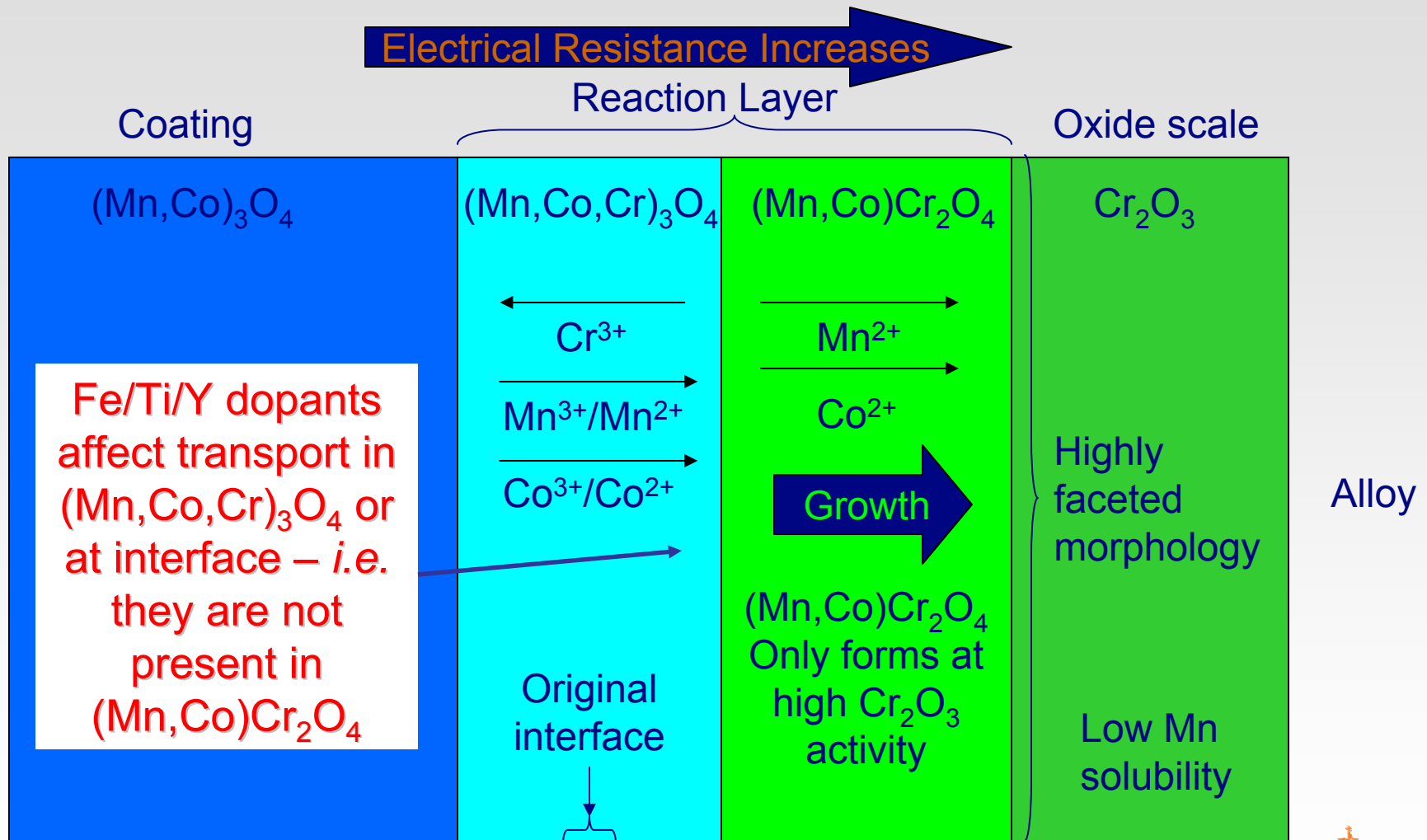
Materials Research and Education  
Center

11<sup>th</sup> Annual SECA Workshop  
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# Acknowledgements

- Researchers
  - Postdoc: Kangli Wang (now at MIT)
  - Ph.D. Students: Yingjia Liu, Yu Zhao
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  - Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (Jeff Stevenson)

# Interconnect Alloy-Coating Interaction



# (Mn,Co)<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> Spinel

- Sites per M<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> unit
  - Two octahedral, one tetrahedral
- Valence
  - Two M<sup>3+</sup> and one M<sup>2+</sup> (“normal” - M<sup>3+</sup> octahedral)
- Site preference
  - Octahedral: Cr > Mn > Co
  - Maximum Cr: Cr<sup>3+</sup> on all octahedral sites

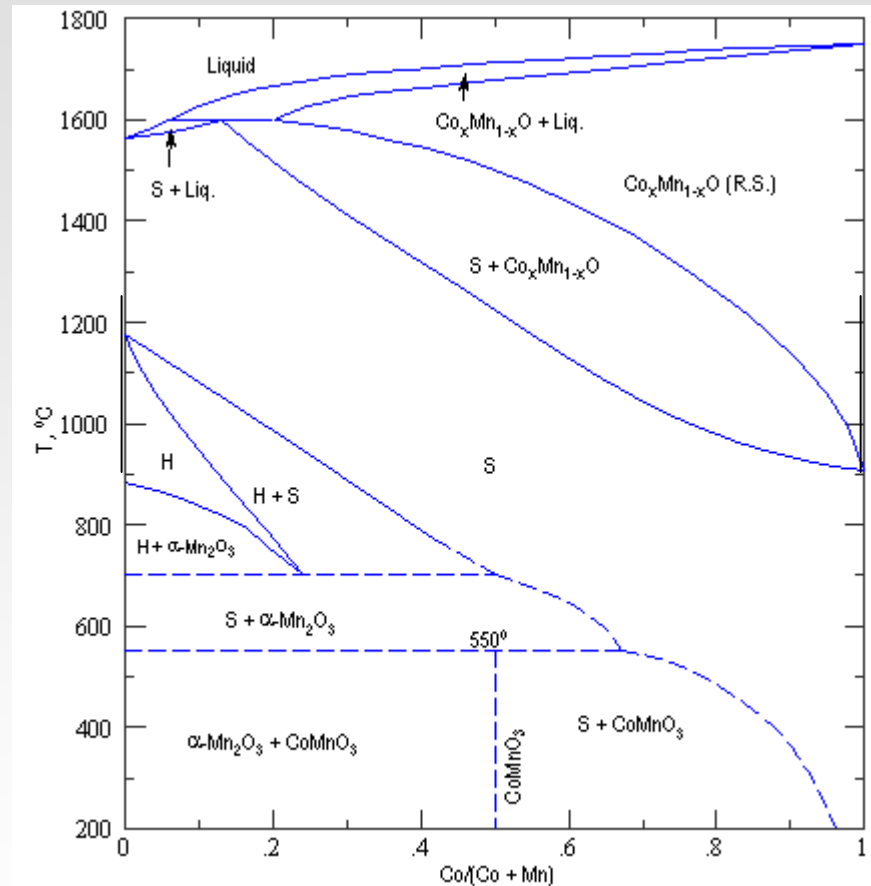
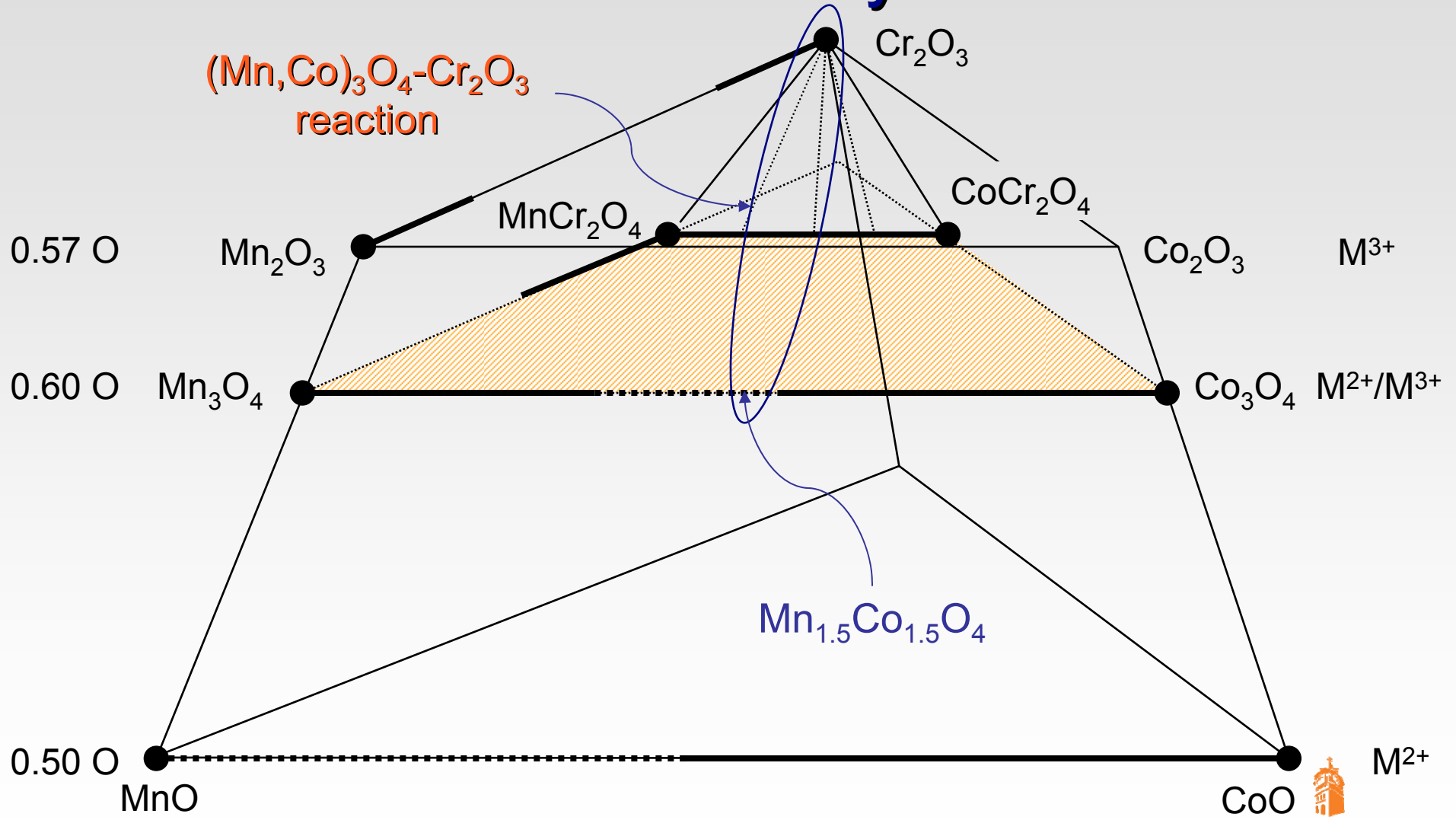


Figure 9570, *Phase Diagrams for Ceramists*

# Mn-Co-Cr-O System

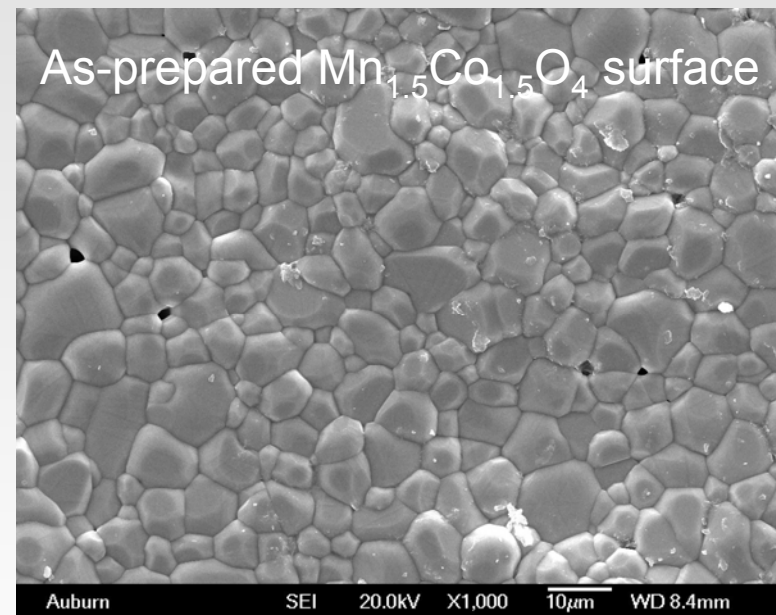
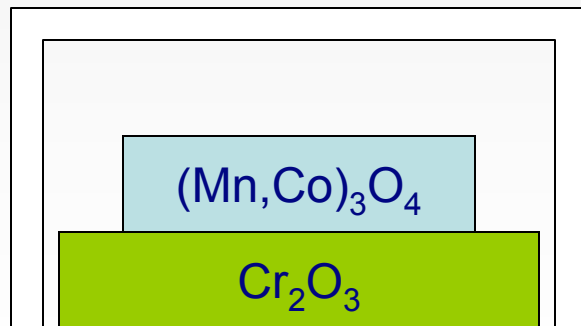


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# Interaction of $(\text{Mn,Co})_3\text{O}_4$ with $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$

- $(\text{Mn,Co})_3\text{O}_4$  synthesis
  - Powder processing
  - 24 hrs in air
- Reaction with  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$ 
  - Solid contact
  - Vapor transport



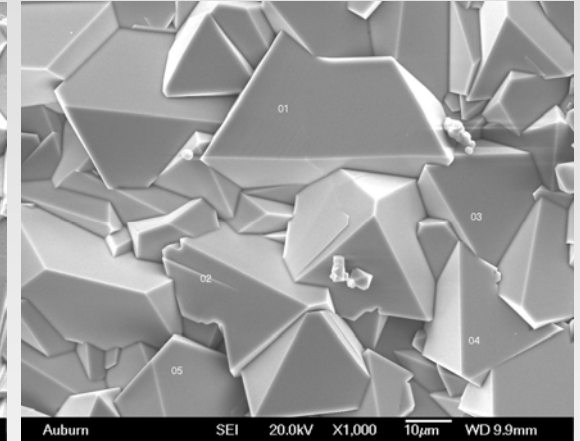
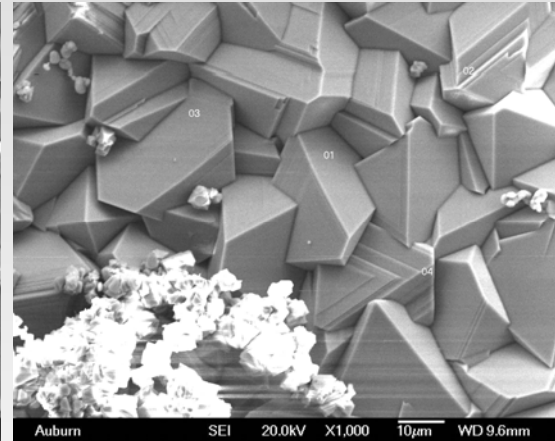
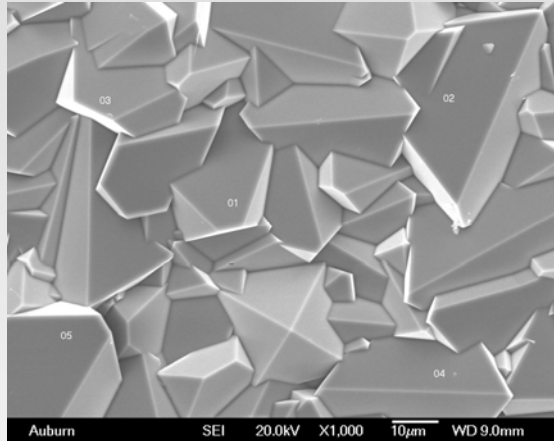
# Effect of Mn/Co Ratio (1200°C, 72 hrs)

2Mn:1Co

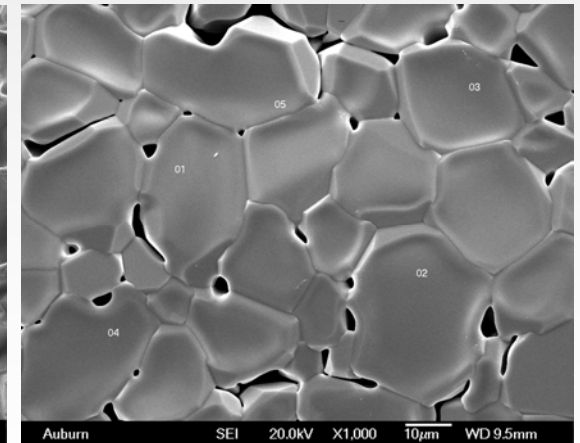
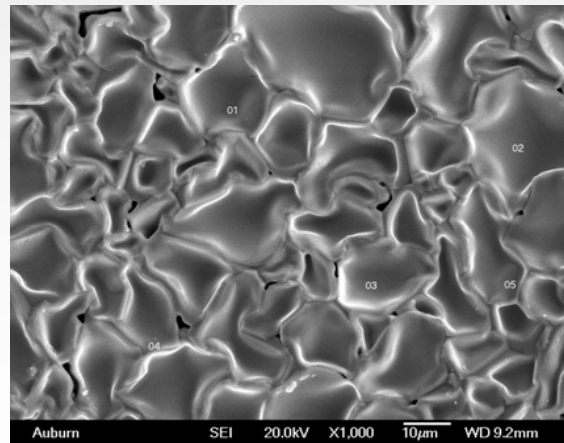
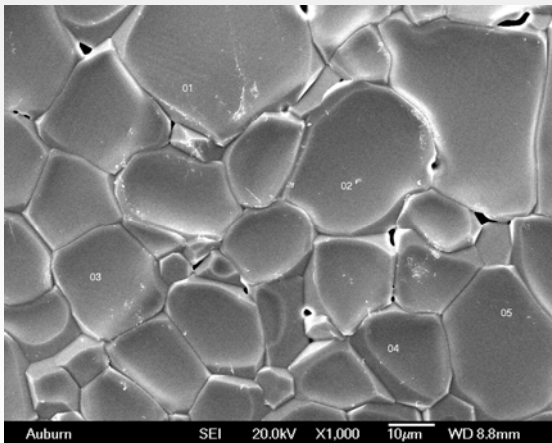
1.5Mn:1.5Co

1Mn:2Co

Solid  
contact



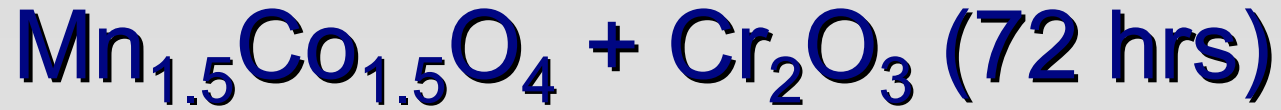
Vapor  
transport



**MnCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>: Less preferential grain boundary growth**

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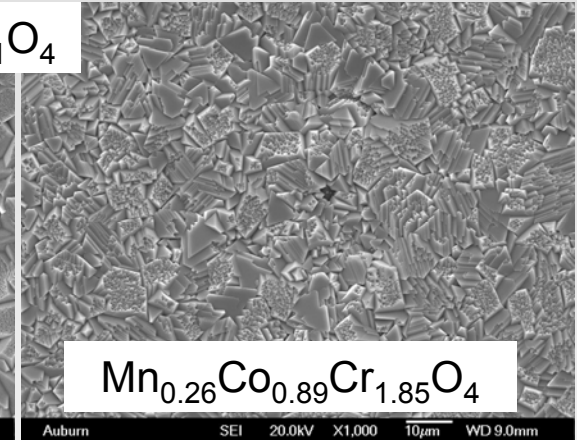
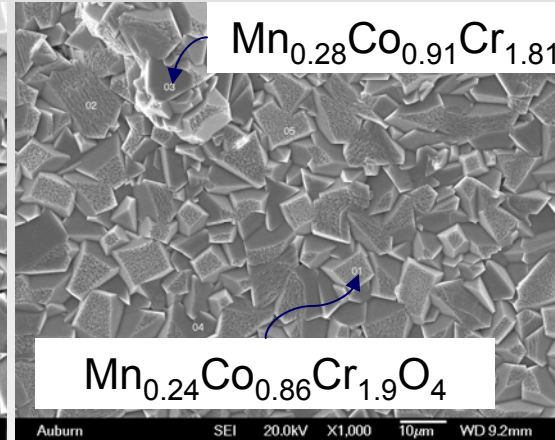
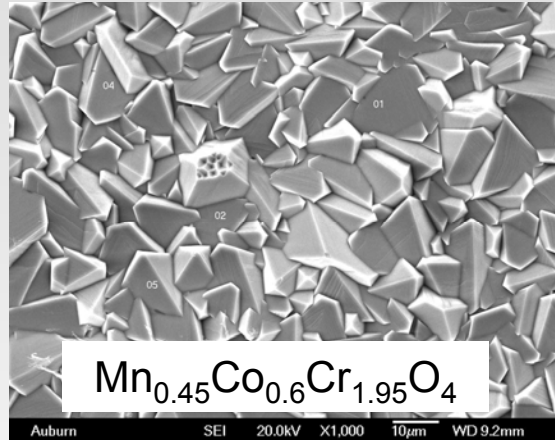


1000°C

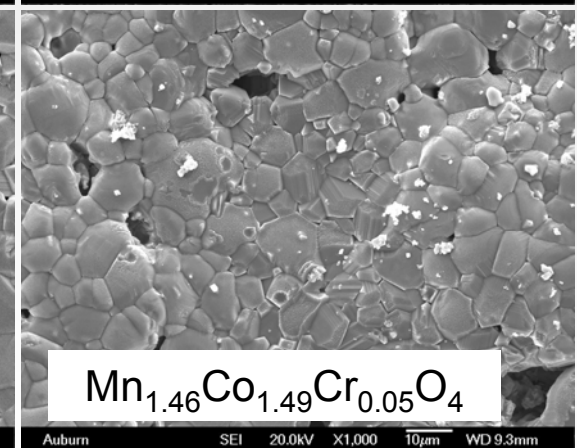
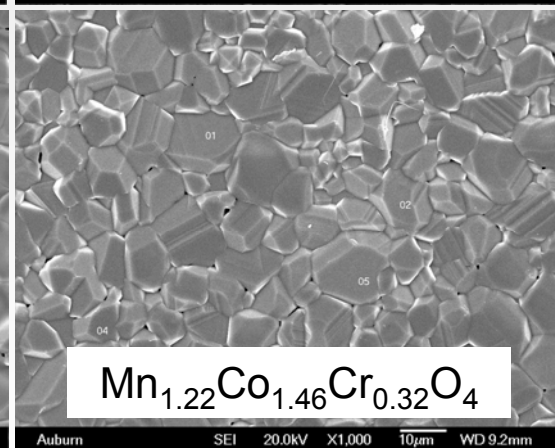
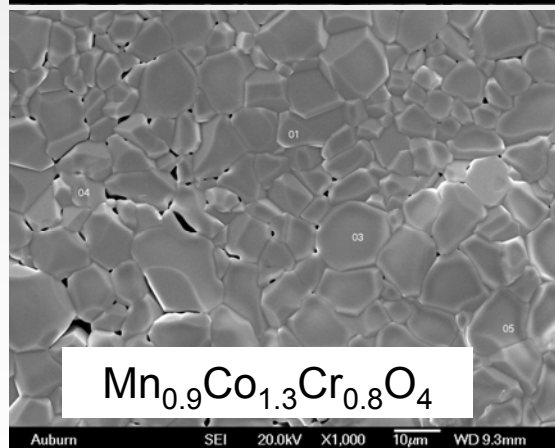
900°C

800°C

Powder



Vapor



800°C: Faceted morphology for lower Cr

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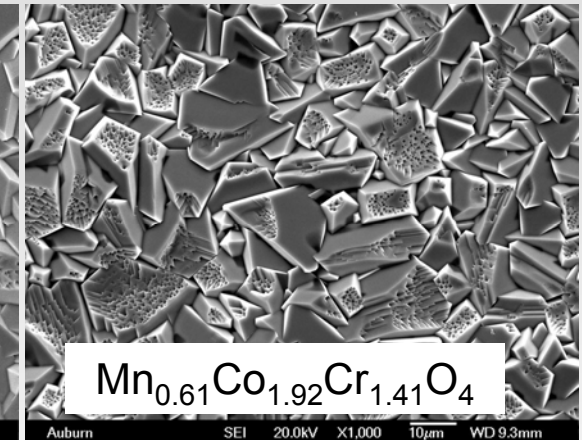
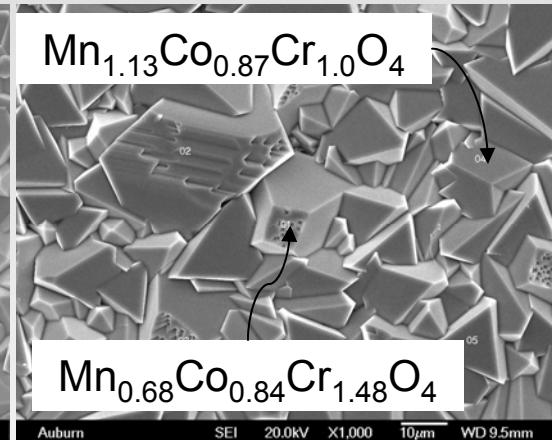
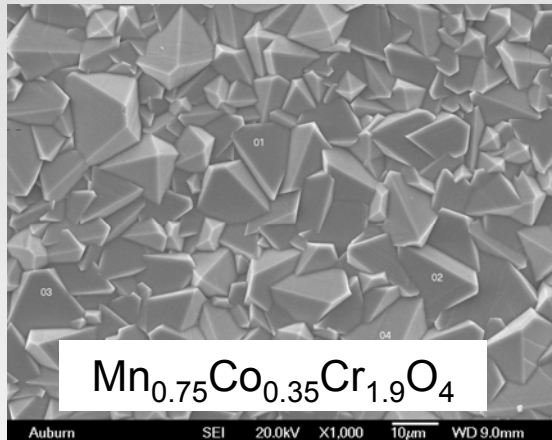
# $Mn_2CoO_4 + Cr_2O_3$ (72 hrs)

1000°C

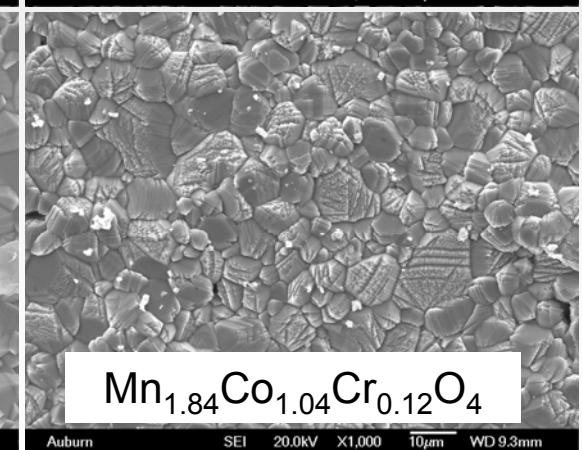
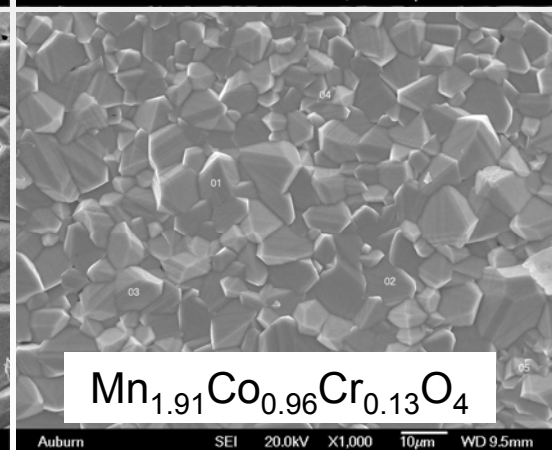
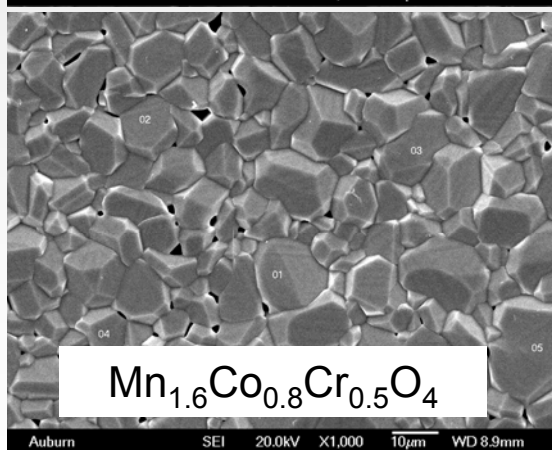
900°C

800°C

Powder



Vapor



Facets form at lower Cr at lower temperatures

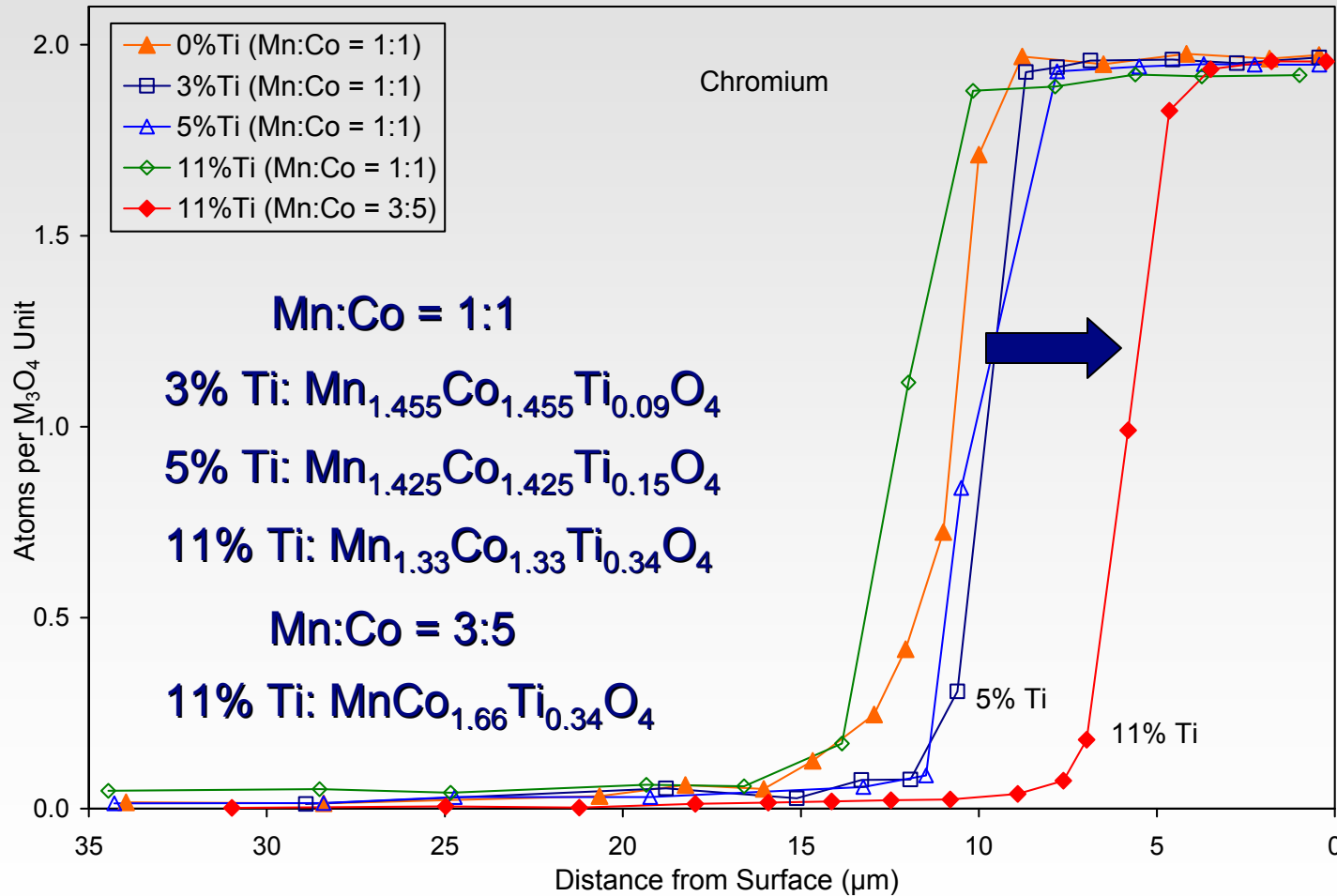
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# $(\text{Mn,Co})_3\text{O}_4\text{-Cr}_2\text{O}_3$ Reaction

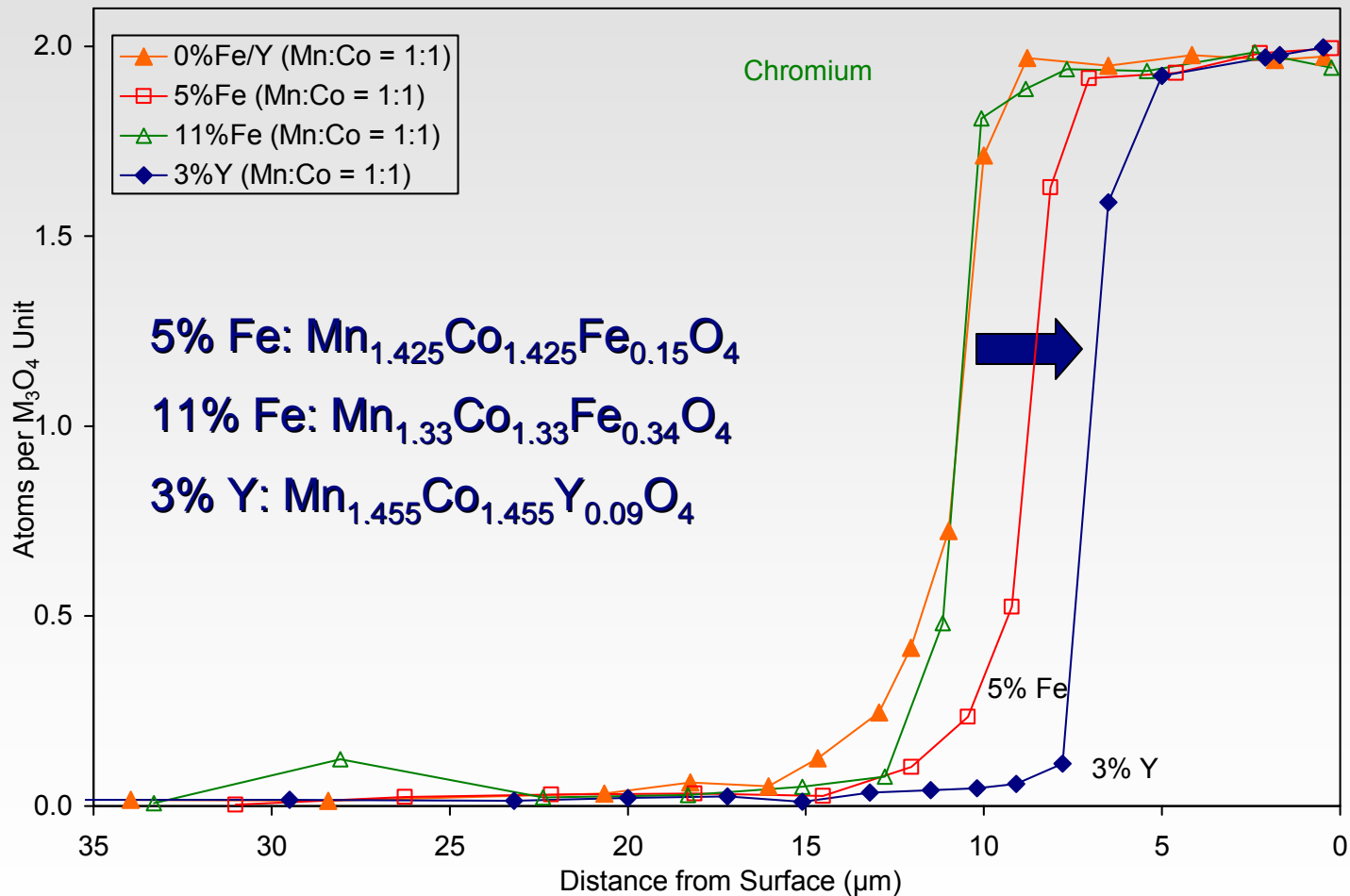
- Faceted morphology forms at lower Cr content at lower temperatures
  - Similar mechanism
  - Dominance of  $\text{Co}^{n+}/\text{Mn}^{n+}$  diffusion reaction control increases with decreasing temperature
- Dopants (Fe, Ti, Y) added to decrease reaction rate

# Ti-doped $(\text{Mn}, \text{Co})_3\text{O}_4$ – 1000°C / 72 hr



Decreased thickness of  $(\text{Mn}, \text{Co})\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_4$  layer

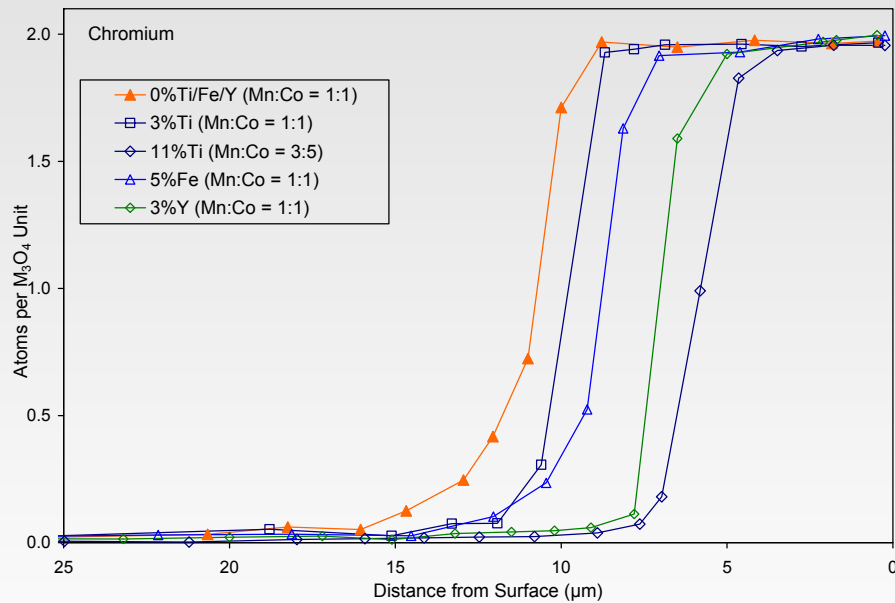
# Fe/Y-doped $(\text{Mn}, \text{Co})_3\text{O}_4$ – 1000°C / 72 hr



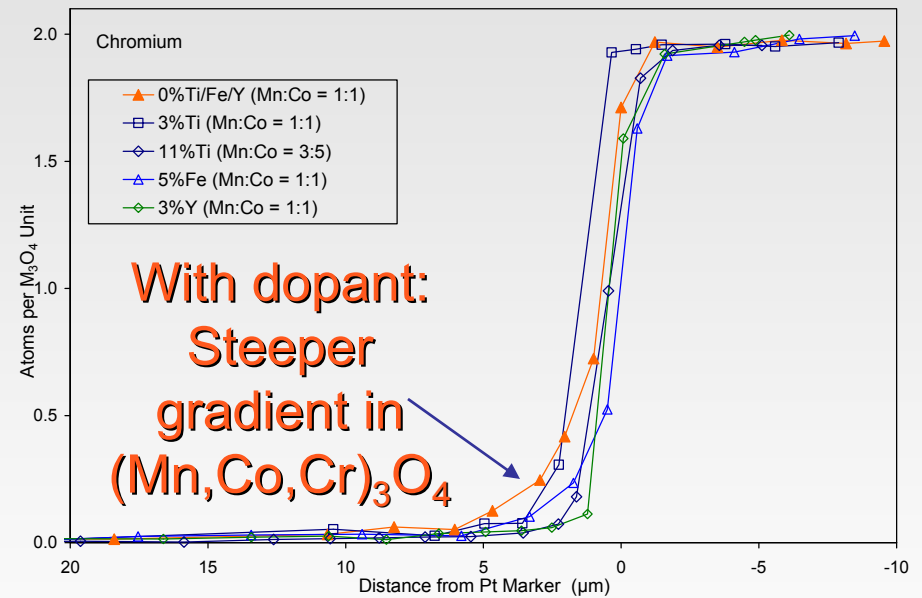
Decreased thickness of  $(\text{Mn}, \text{Co})\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_4$  layer

# Doped $(\text{Mn}, \text{Co})_3\text{O}_4$ – 1000°C / 72 hr

## Chromium



Distance from sample surface



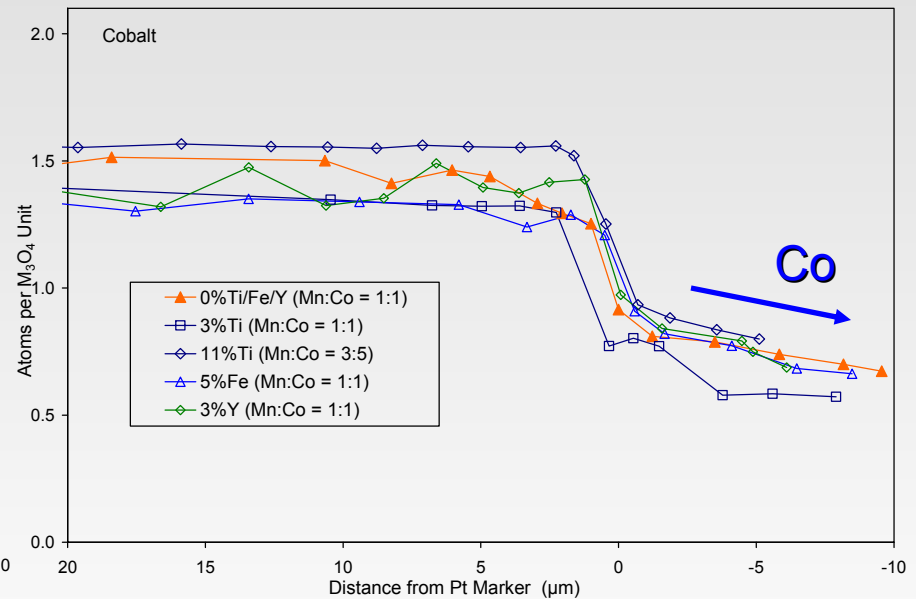
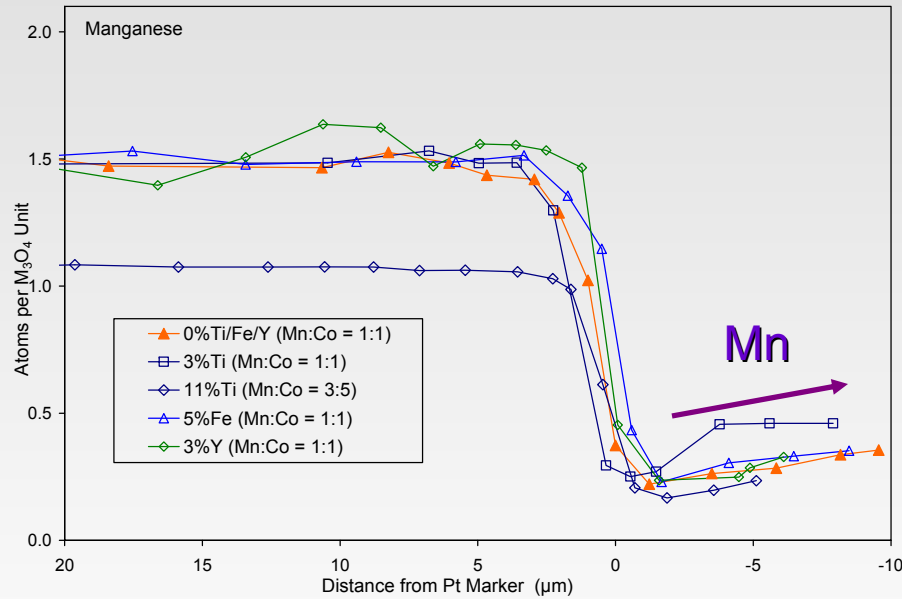
Distance from Pt marker



# Doped $(\text{Mn}, \text{Co})_3\text{O}_4$ – 1000°C / 72 hr

Manganese

Cobalt



Distance from Pt marker



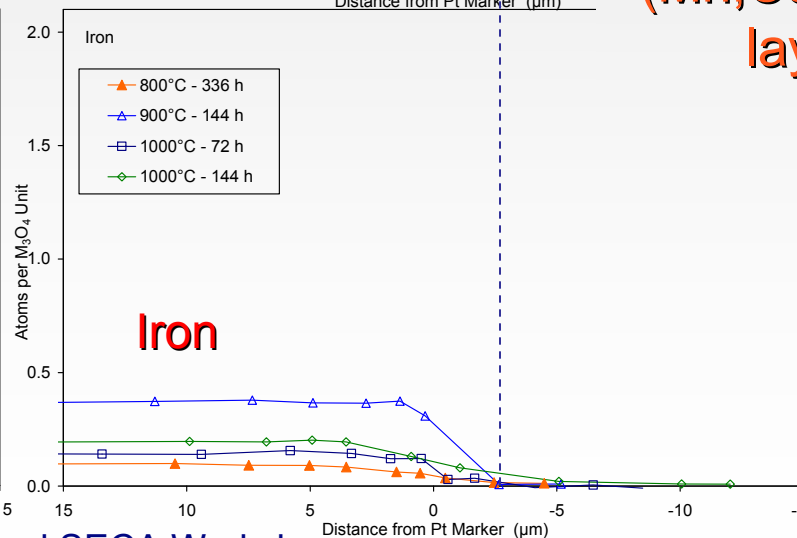
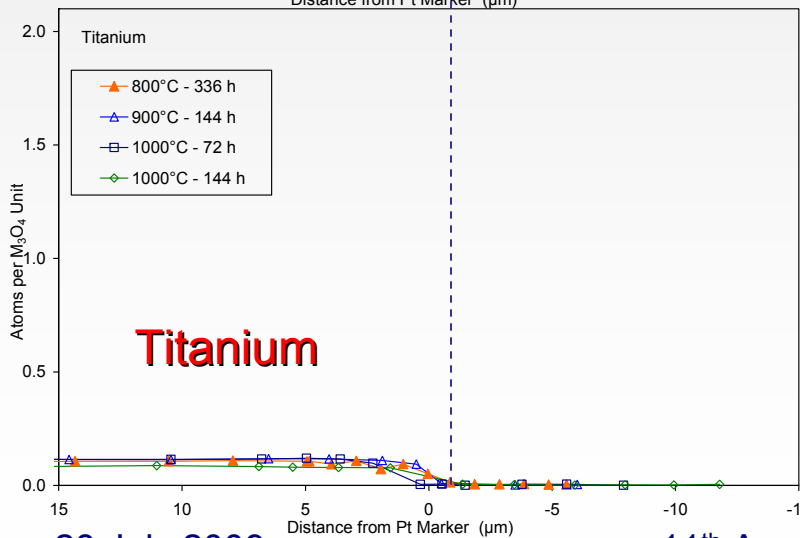
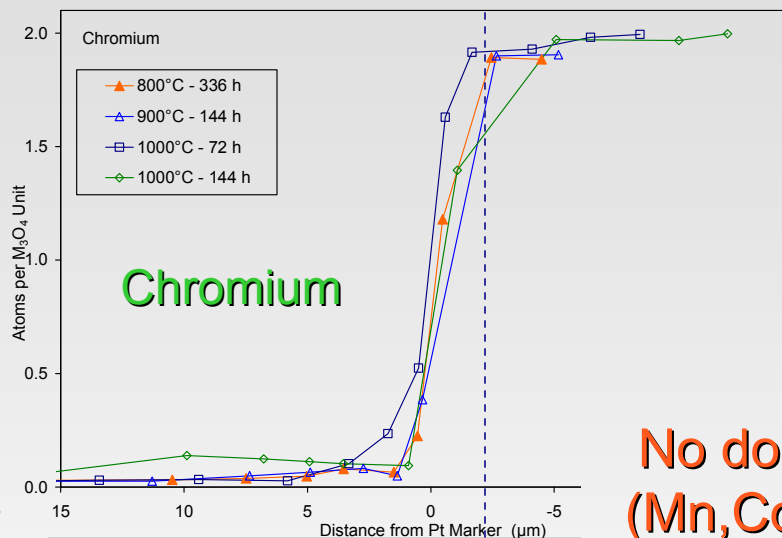
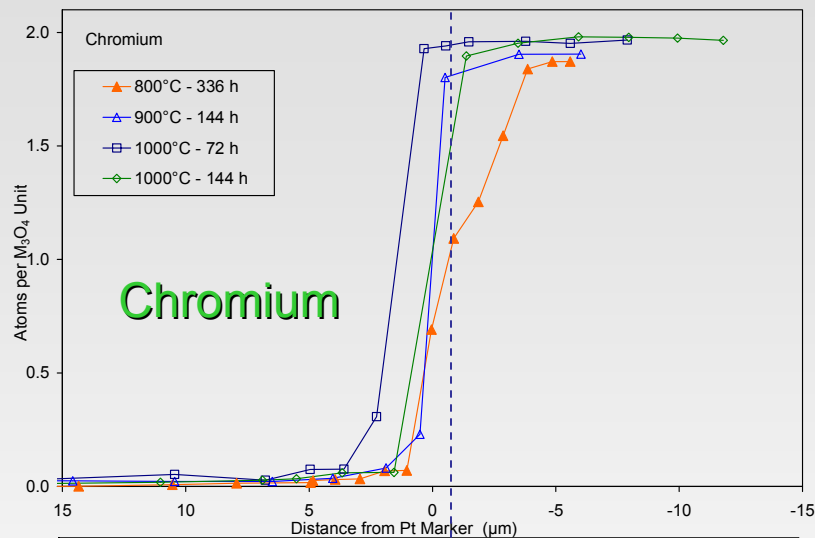
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# 3%Ti

# Dopant Location

# 5%Fe



No dopant in  
(Mn,Co)Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>  
layer

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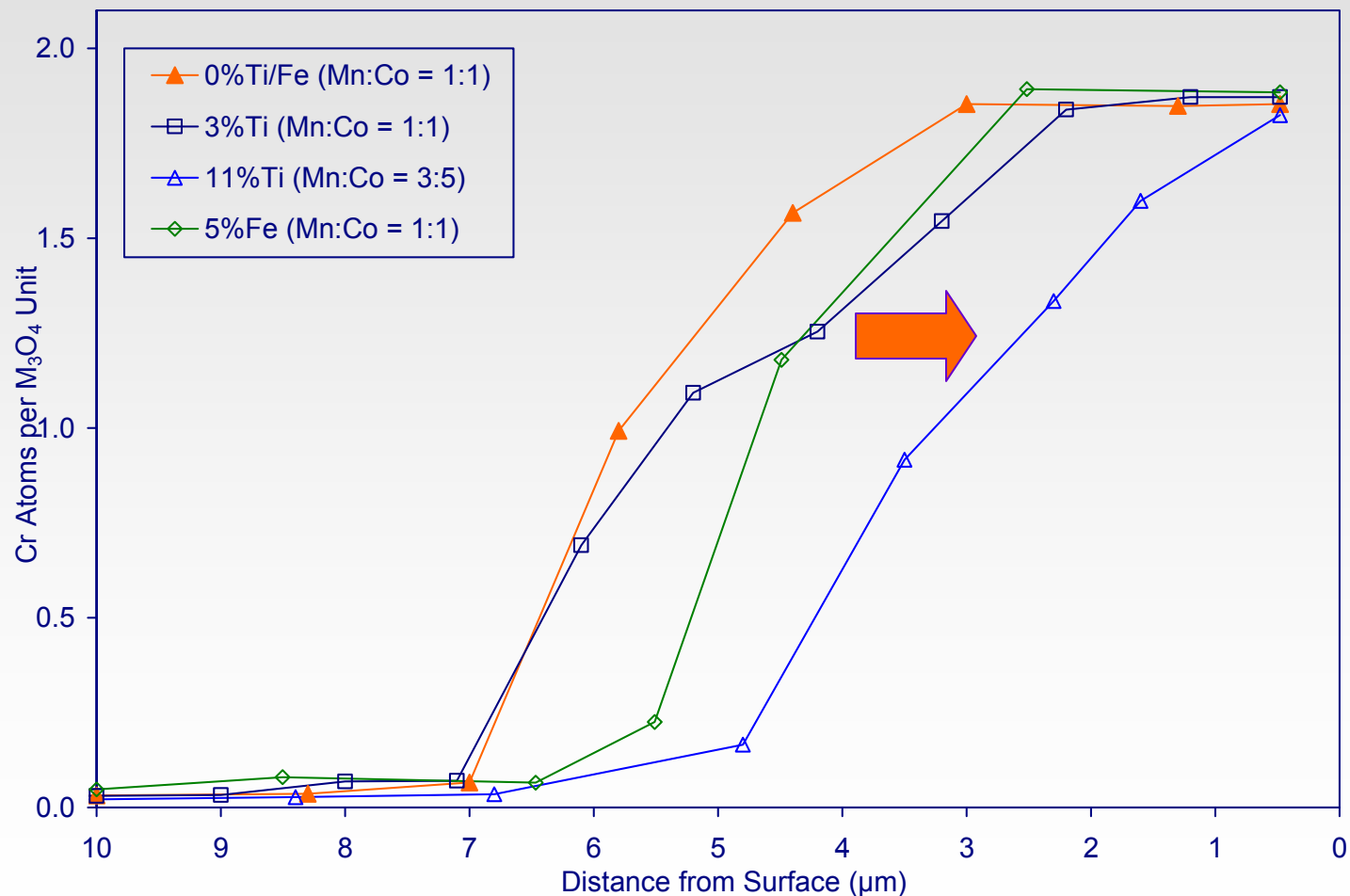
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# Reaction Layer Thickness (800°C for 336 hrs)



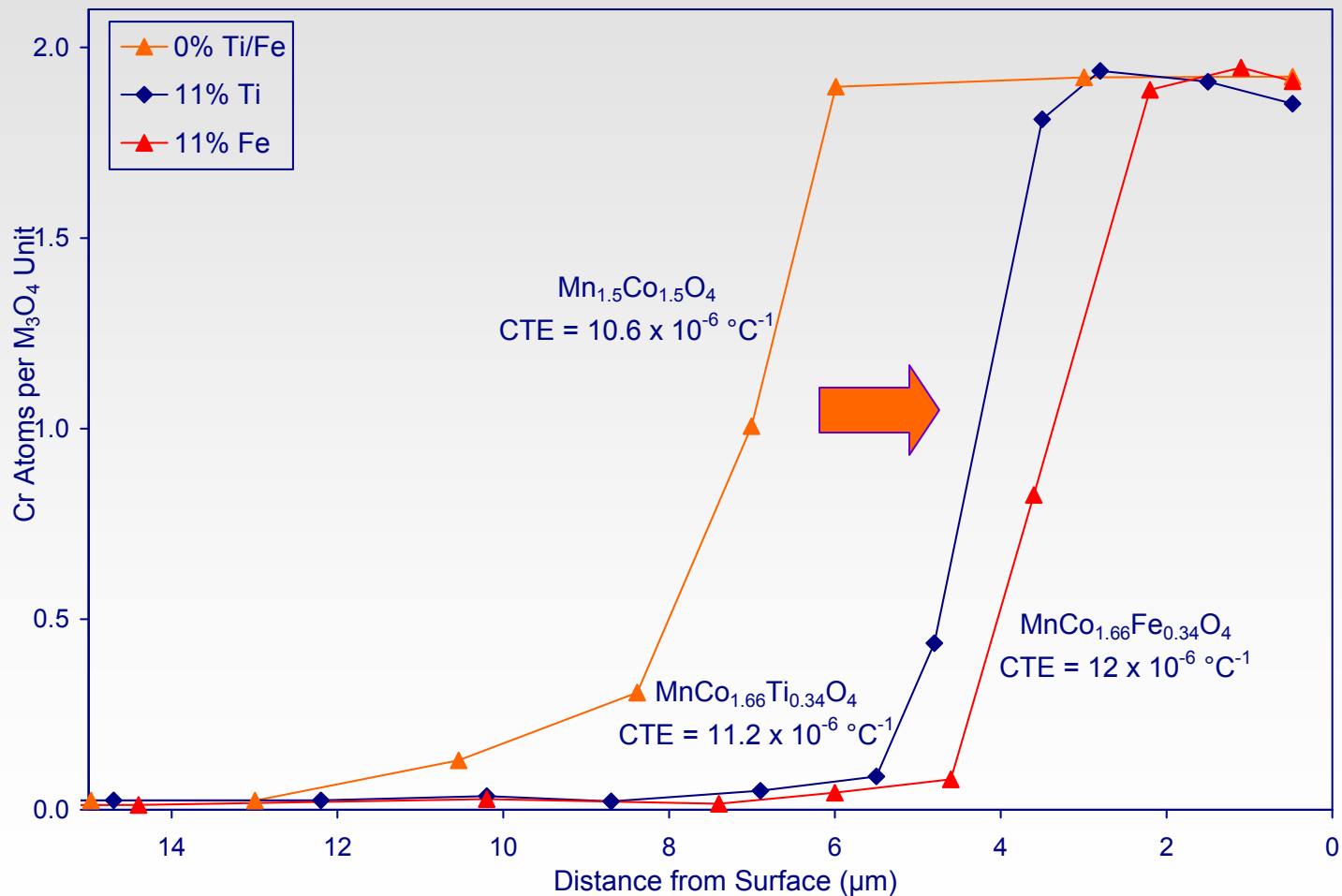
Ti and Fe additions decrease the thickness of the reaction layer (reaction with  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$ ) – Ti with high Co more effective

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# Reaction Layer Thickness (900°C for 144 hrs)

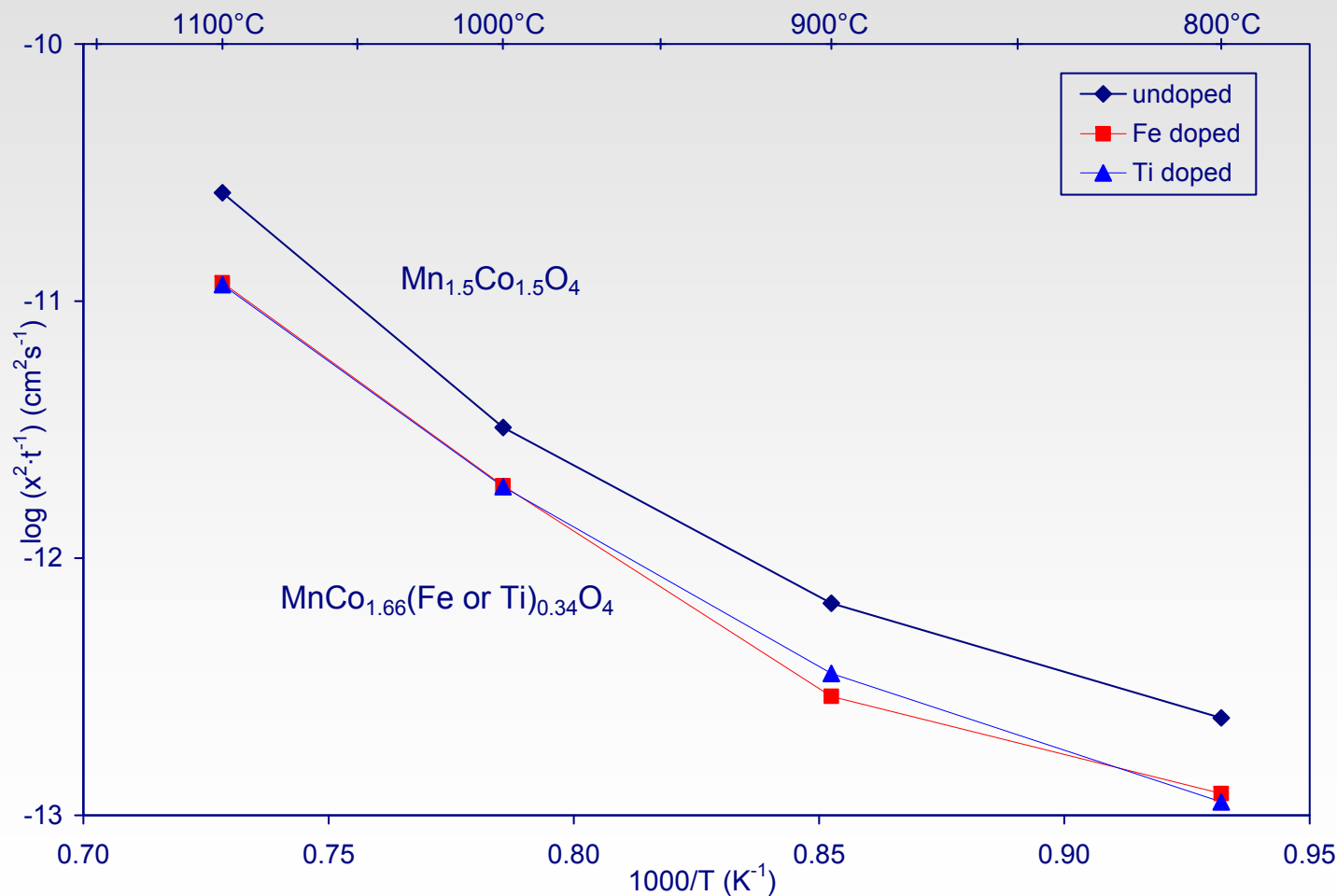


Ti and Fe additions significantly decrease the thickness of the reaction layer – small increase in CTE

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# Reaction Layer Thickness – Temperature Dependence



Activations Energy:

- Decreases with decreasing temperature
- Similar for doped and undoped

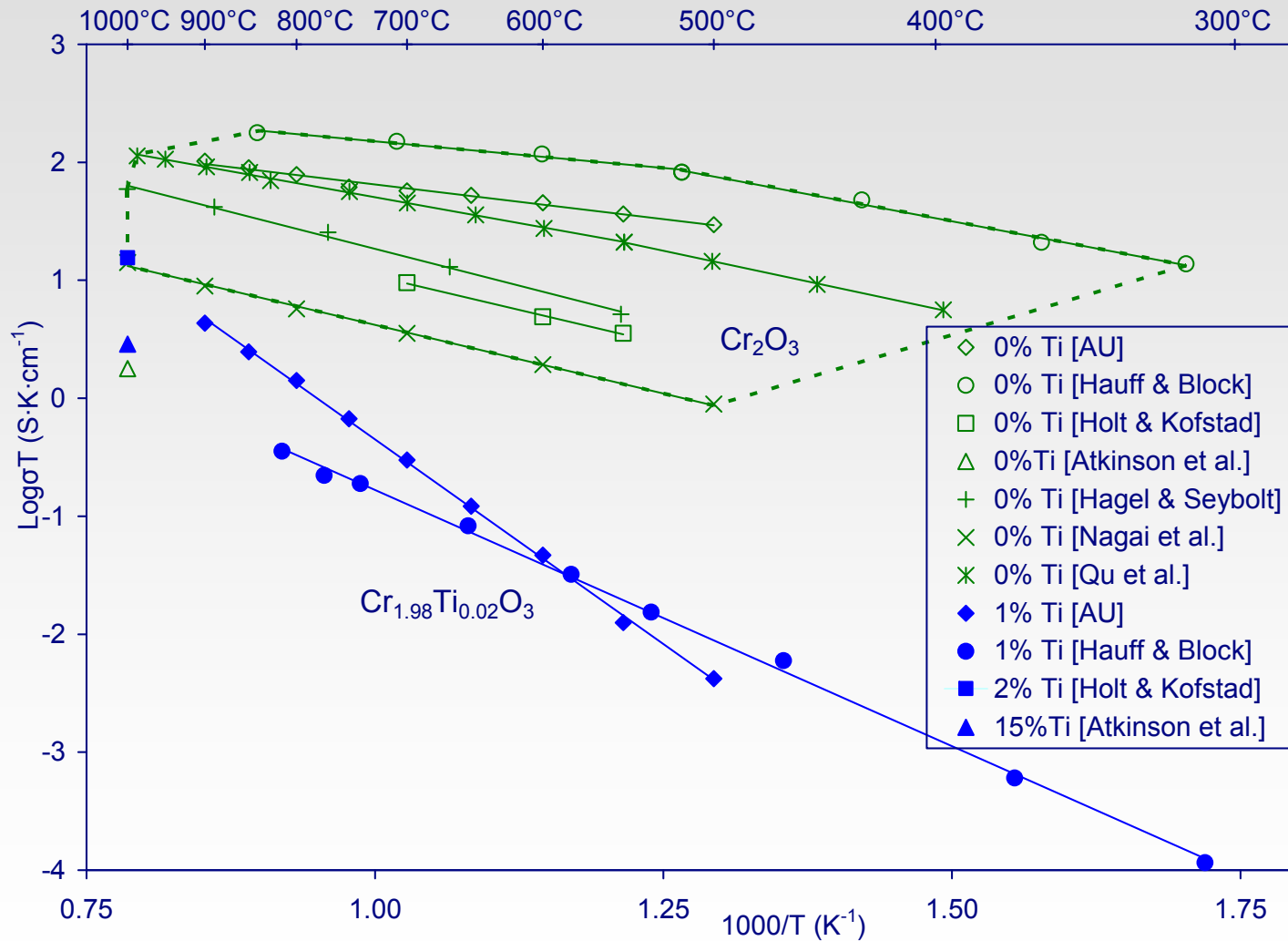
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# Conductivity

- Chromia scale
  - Effect of Ti doping
- Coating
  - Effect of Mn:Co
  - Effect of dopant
- Reaction layer
  - Effect of Cr content

# Conductivity of Ti-doped $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$



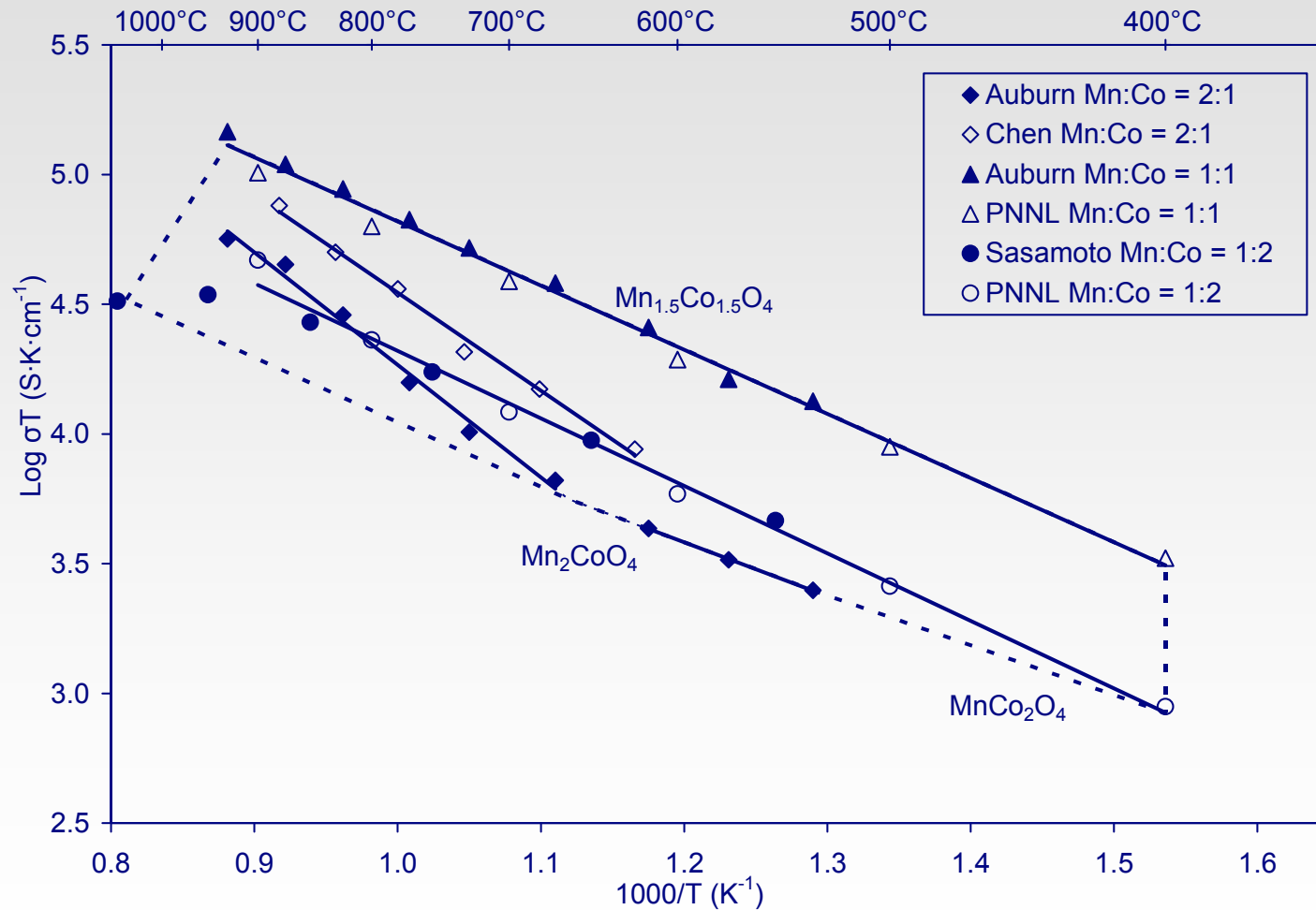
Ti-doping  
decreases  
conductivity in  
air

Increase  
observed at  
higher  
temperature /  
lower  $p\text{O}_2$

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# Conductivity of $(\text{Mn},\text{Co})_3\text{O}_4$

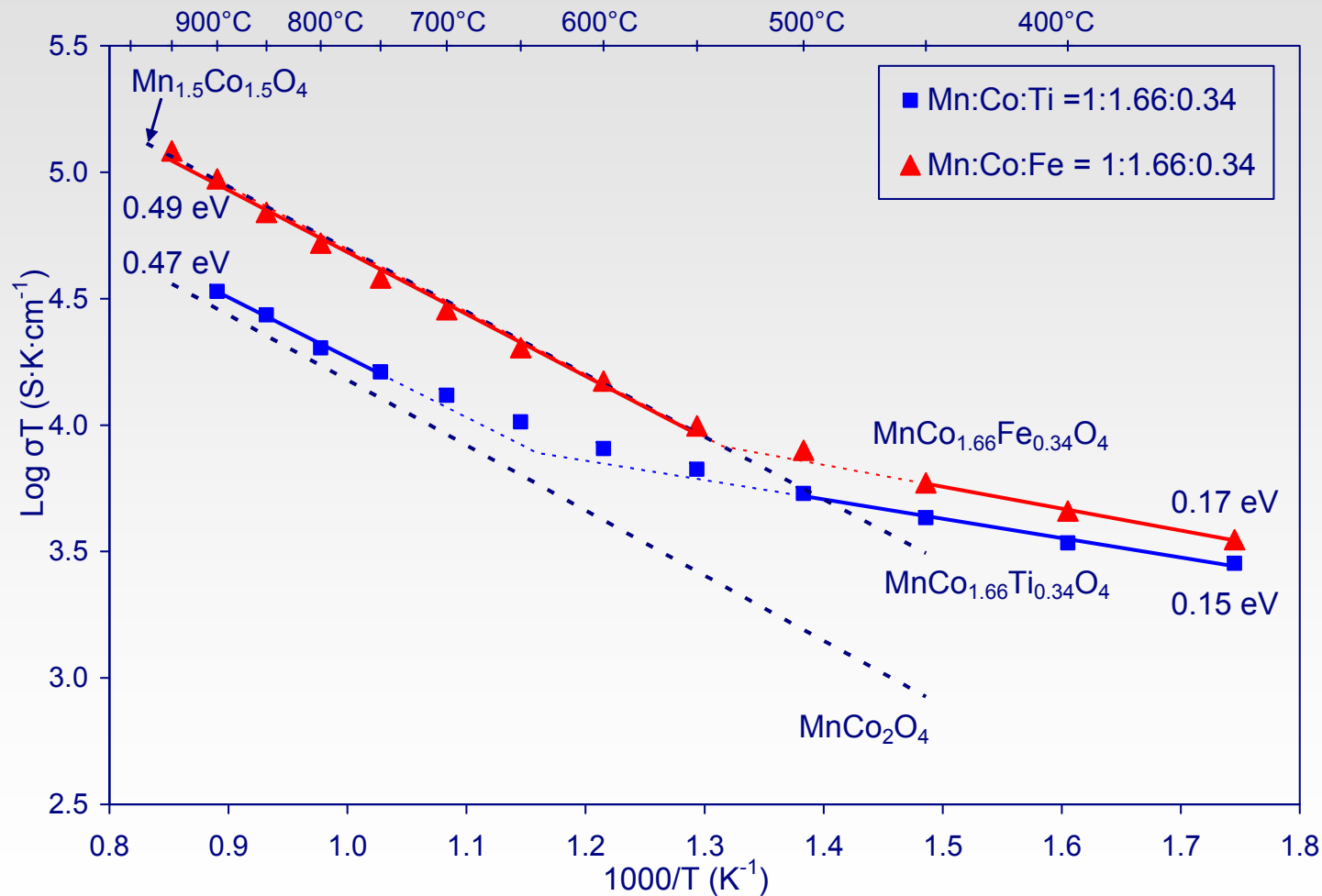


**Mn:Co = 1:1  
highest  
conductivity**

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# Conductivity of Fe- and Ti-doped (Mn,Co)<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>



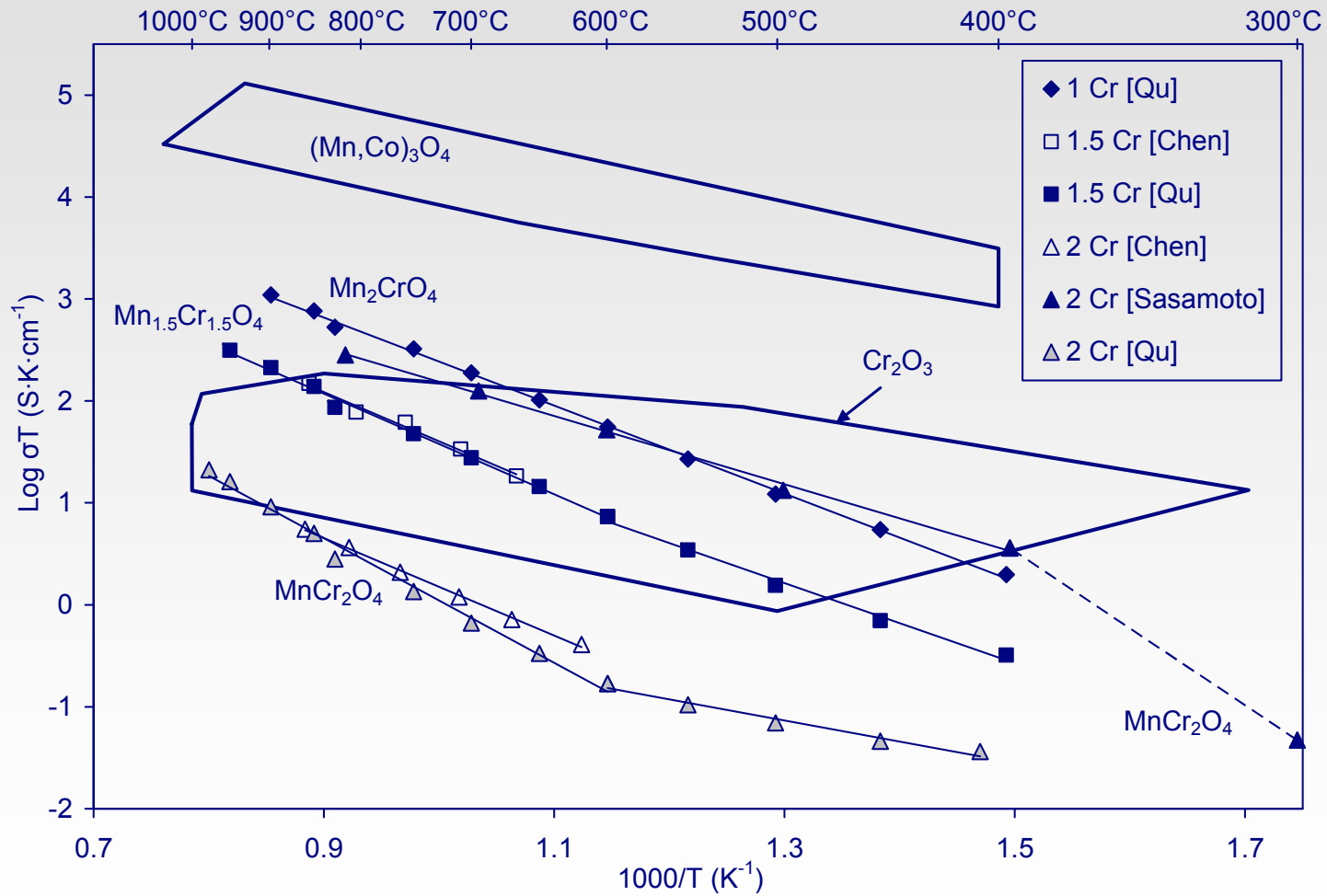
**Fe-doped:  
Conductivity  
same as  
Mn<sub>1.5</sub>Co<sub>1.5</sub>O<sub>4</sub>**

**Ti-doped:  
Conductivity  
lower than  
Mn<sub>1.5</sub>Co<sub>1.5</sub>O<sub>4</sub>  
but higher  
than MnCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>**

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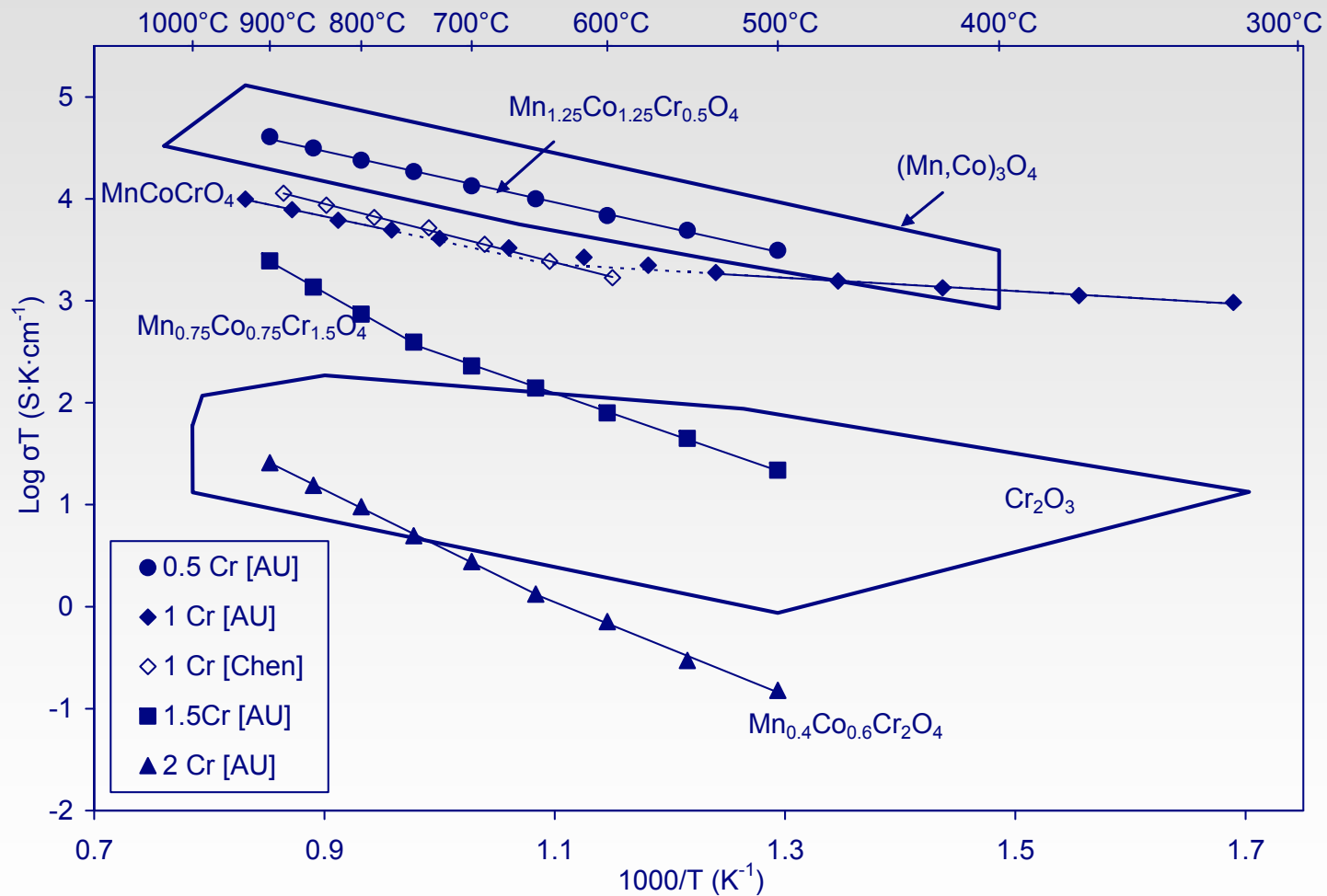
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# Conductivity of $(\text{Mn,Cr})_3\text{O}_4$



Conductivity decreases with increasing Cr content

# Conductivity of $(\text{Mn,Co,Cr})_3\text{O}_4$



Conductivity decreases with increasing Cr content

Magnitude of decrease less than for  $(\text{Mn,Cr})_3\text{O}_4$

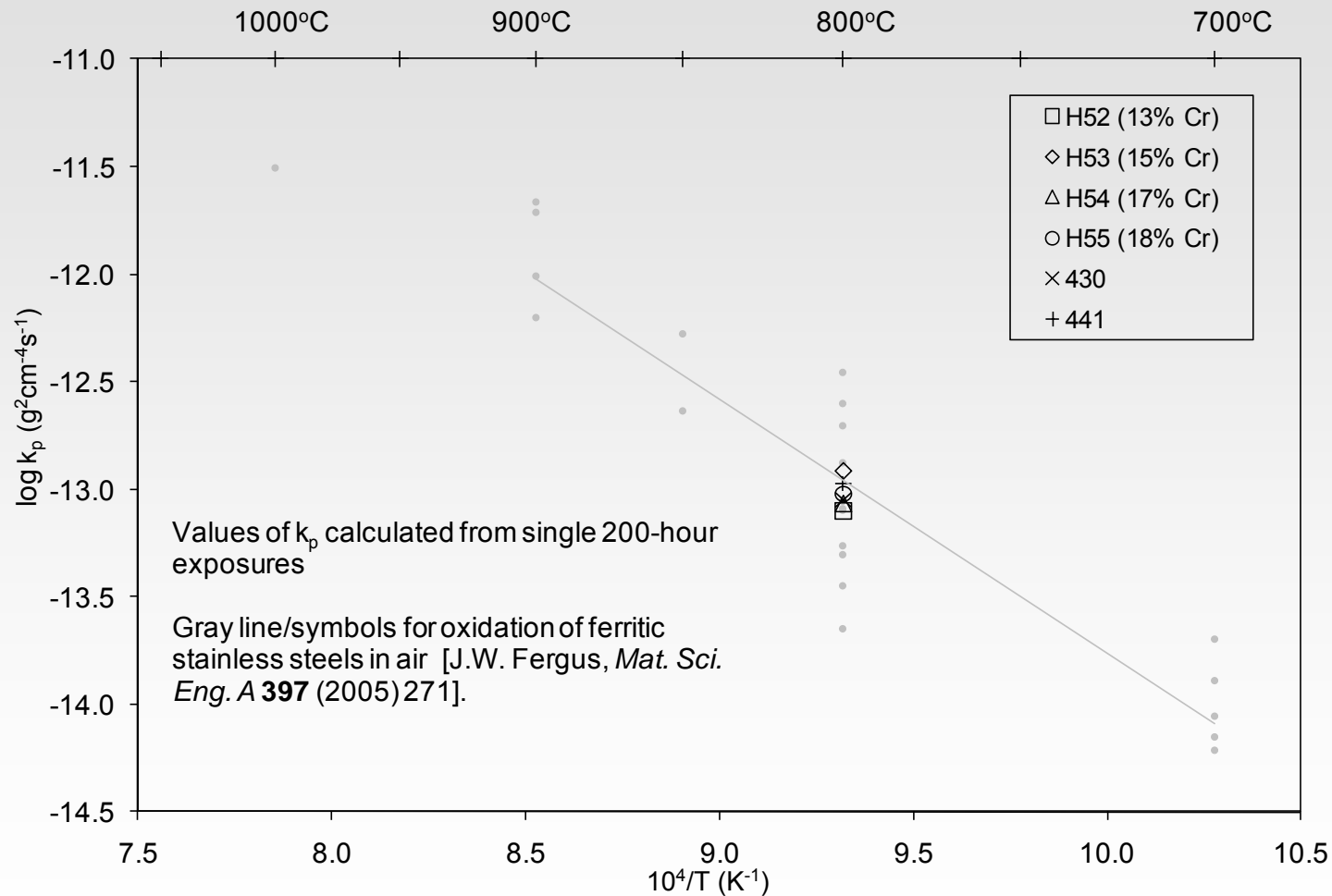


# Alloy Content

- Is minimum Cr content lower for coated alloy?
  - With coating, scale is modified by reaction with coating
  - Modified scale could be maintained with lower Cr content and/or have higher electrical resistance
  - ATI Allegheny Ludlum prepared alloys containing alloying additions in 441 with other Cr contents

Alloy	Concentration (wt%)					
	Fe	Cr	Mn	Si	Ti	Nb
H52	85.7	13.0	0.29	0.35	0.19	0.35
H53	83.7	15.1	0.30	0.35	0.20	0.35
H54	81.7	16.9	0.30	0.37	0.24	0.37
H55	80.7	17.8	0.30	0.35	0.22	0.36

# Oxidation Rates



Weight gains similar to each other and to other ferritic stainless steel alloys

# Future Plans

- Interconnect coating
  - Use coating-interconnect reaction and conductivity results to predict coating lifetime
- Interconnect alloy
  - Evaluate oxidation behavior of coated and uncoated 441 Cr variant alloys

# Conclusions

- Low temperature mechanism similar with increasing dominance of Co/Mn diffusion
- Fe/Ti additions decrease reaction rates while maintaining similar electrical conductivities
- Ti decreases the electrical conductivity of chromia in air at SOFC operating temperatures
- Conductivity of spinel decreases with increasing Cr content

# Interconnect Alloy-Coating Interaction

