Durability and Reliability of Materials and Components for Solid-Oxide Fuel Cells

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Acknowledgments

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Outline

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- Residual Stresses in SOFCs
 - Experimental Conditions
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- Data Base
- Summary



- Tools are being developed for predicting the durability and reliability of SOFC materials and components.
- The integration of mechanical property data with life prediction models requires the definition of a reference state of stress and understanding how stresses and strength evolve with time and operating conditions.



Background

Reliability = exp
$$\left(-\frac{\sigma_1}{\sigma_{1o}}\right)^{m_1}$$

Reliability = exp
$$\left(-\frac{\sigma_2}{\sigma_{2o}}\right)^{m_2}$$

$$\text{Reliability} = \exp\left[-\frac{k_1(\sigma_1 + \sigma_{1res})}{\sigma_{1o}}^{m_1}\exp\left[-\frac{k_2(\sigma_2 + \sigma_{2res})}{\sigma_{2o}}^{m_2}\right]\right]$$

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Background





- Tools are being developed for predicting the durability and reliability of SOFC materials and components.
- The integration of mechanical property data with life prediction models requires the definition of a reference state of stress and understanding how stresses and strength evolve with time and operating conditions.
- The objective of this project is to determine the state of residual stresses in a NiO-YSZ/YSZ bilayer before and after reduction in H₂.



NiO-YSZ/YSZ bilayer





Curvature of NiO-YSZ/YSZ bilayer: optical profilometry





- 5 mm x 5 mm bi-layers of NiO-YSZ/YSZ
- 10 µm-thick YSZ layer
- scans between 139° and 142° 2θ
- 20°C, 400°C, 600°C, 800°C and 900°C

• Air

- 5 mm x 5 mm bi-layers of Ni-YSZ/YSZ (after reduction at 800°C using gas mixture of 4%H₂ and 96% Ar)
- 10 µm-thick YSZ layer
- scans between 139° and 142° 20
- 20°C, 400°C, 600°C, 800°C and 900°C

• Ar

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High-temperature Diffractometer



Peak shift is converted into strain

•Strain/stress (applied or residual) changes the interplanar spacing Θ peak shift



• Strain,
$$\varepsilon = (d_B - d_A)/d_A$$









- Sample tilting is required for accurate strain measurement with x-rays
- Peak position as a function of tilt angle,
 ψ
- Slope of d (interplanar spacing) vs. sin²ψ is used to calculate strain.



Residual Stresses in NiO-YSZ/YSZ and NiO-YSZ/YSZ bilayers







20°C





400°C





600°C





800°C



Implications

Reliability = exp
$$\left(-\frac{\sigma_1}{\sigma_{1o}}\right)^{m_1}$$

Reliability = exp
$$\left(-\frac{\sigma_2}{\sigma_{2o}}\right)^{m_2}$$

$$\operatorname{Re} liability = \exp\left[-\frac{k_1(\sigma_1 + \sigma_{1res})}{\sigma_{1o}}^{m_1}\exp\left[-\frac{k_2(\sigma_2 + \sigma_{2res})}{\sigma_{2o}}\right]^{m_2}\right]$$

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Summary

- Large residual compressive stress in zirconia layer at room temperature.
- The magnitude of residual stresses decreases linearly with temperature.
- The magnitude of residual stresses in both zirconia and Ni-YSZ layers decreases after NiO-YSZ reduction in H₂.
- The zero-stress temperature was found to be lower than the sintering temperature.
- Model predictions are consistent with curvature measurements and X-ray diffraction determined values.



Fracture Toughness

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$$K_{I} = PW_{m} \frac{3(1+v)}{Wt^{4}\xi} \int_{0}^{1/2} \xi = 1 - 1.26(t/W) + 2.4(t/W) \exp[-\pi W/(2t)]$$

P-maximum load, v – Poisson's ratio Precracked @ 0.02 mm/min and tested @ 1 mm/min

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Fracture Toughness











Notches machined with laser beam







Notches machined with laser beam







Notches machined with diamond blade





- Work in progress to optimize sample preparation.
- Tests will be carried out under a microscope or using a special test fixture inside an SEM.
- Collaboration with J. Qu et al. (Ga. Tech)



A study to determine the effect of porosity, temperature and test specimen thickness on the elastic properties, strength, fracture toughness and thermophysical properties of NiO-YSZ, Ni-YSZ and YSZ has been completed.



Data Base





Data Base





Data Base



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- Thermophysical and mechanical properties of SOFC materials.
- Data generated at ORNL
- Data reported in open literature
- To be distributed to SECA Industrial Teams



Summary

- A methodology has been developed to determine the magnitude of residual stresses in SOFC layered systems as a function of temperature by means of X-ray diffraction.
- Information necessary for determining zero-stress reference temperature, for verifying thermoelastic models and for predictions of reliability and durability.
- Work is in progress to determine the fracture toughness of relevant SOFC interfaces.
- A data base has been assembled containing physical and mechanical properties of SOFC materials.
- All elements are in place for predicting reliability of SOFC assemblies.



Elastic Modulus of GDC



