

Coatings for Si₃N₄ and SiC Ceramics: an Historical Perspective

Presented at the ORNL EBC Workshop
Nashville, TN, Nov 6-7, 2002

By

Dave Carruthers

Dave Carruthers & Associates
davecarruthers@prodigy.net

Presentation Outline

- Background
- Approaches to Environmental Corrosion
- Recommendations

Advanced Gas Turbines Provide a Material Challenges

- High Temperatures: 1900 to 2500F
- High and Cyclical Stresses: thermal and mechanical
- High Velocity Gases: approaching (exceeding) Mach 1
- High Pressures: \sim 4 to 10 atmospheres (for small turbines)
- Exposure to combustion products
- Combined Temperature, Pressure, Velocity, & Atmosphere which accelerate the detrimental effect, i.e. slow crack growth, corrosion

Microturbine Requirements

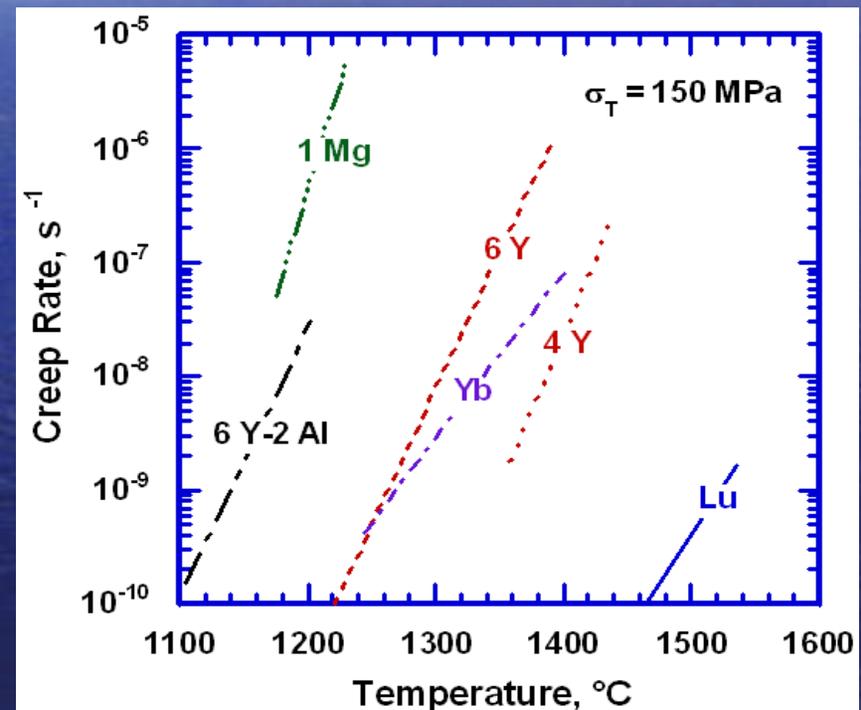
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[Ref DOE Microturbine Peer review, 2002]

OEM	Max Temp, F	Pressure, Atm	Life Goal, hrs Overhaul/Service
GE	2130	4.2	8000 – 11,000/ 45,000 - 80,000
Capstone	2100	4.1	
UTRC [Shi, 2002]	2200	8	
IR	1902	4.8	

Advanced Si_3N_4 Show Significant Capabilities

- Creep and oxidation resistance have improved with improved compositions
- Available in gas pressure sintered complex shapes
- Decreasing ionic radius of RE increases oxidation resistance [Cinibulk, 1992]
- Single additive system: reduced oxidation, e.g., SN282, Lu_2O_3 : low Lu ion content glass, oxide growth : $0.004 \mu\text{m}^2/\text{hr}$ @ 1400C [Klemm, 2001a]
- Multiple additives system: increased oxygen diffusion , e.g., AS800, $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{La}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{SrO}$, high ion content glass, growth rate $0.4 \mu\text{m}^2/\text{hr}$ @ 1400C [Klemm, 2001a]



from S. M. Wiederhorn and M. K. Ferber

Today's Ceramics Are Not Adequate

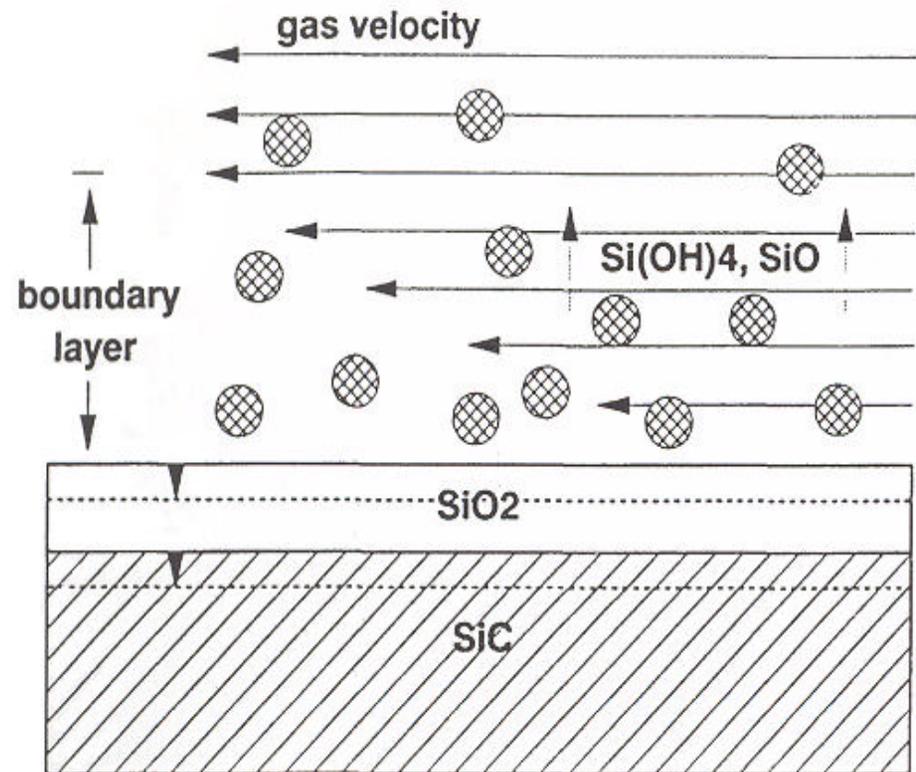
- Vulnerability to Impact Damage
 - Air Research DARPA program [Richerson et al, 1982b]
 - Allied Signal AGT101 program [Boyd & Kreiner, 1987]
 - Solar Centaur 50S [van Roode et al, 1997]
- Poor resistance to water vapor and oxidation under advanced gas turbine conditions
 - Simulated Engine conditions [Smialek et al, 1999, & Schenk et al, 2001]
 - Allison 501K Engine conditions [Lin et al, 2001]

Environmental Resistance is Major Challenge

- Water vapor degrades silicon based ceramics

- H₂O enhances transport of impurities from the atmosphere to the surface
- Increases oxidation rate of silica-formers: Relative to O₂, H₂O diffusion is ~1/10th, but solubility is ~1000x. Results in bubble formation
- SiO₂ layer volatilized by water vapor: $\text{SiO}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{Si(OH)}_x + \text{SiO}$

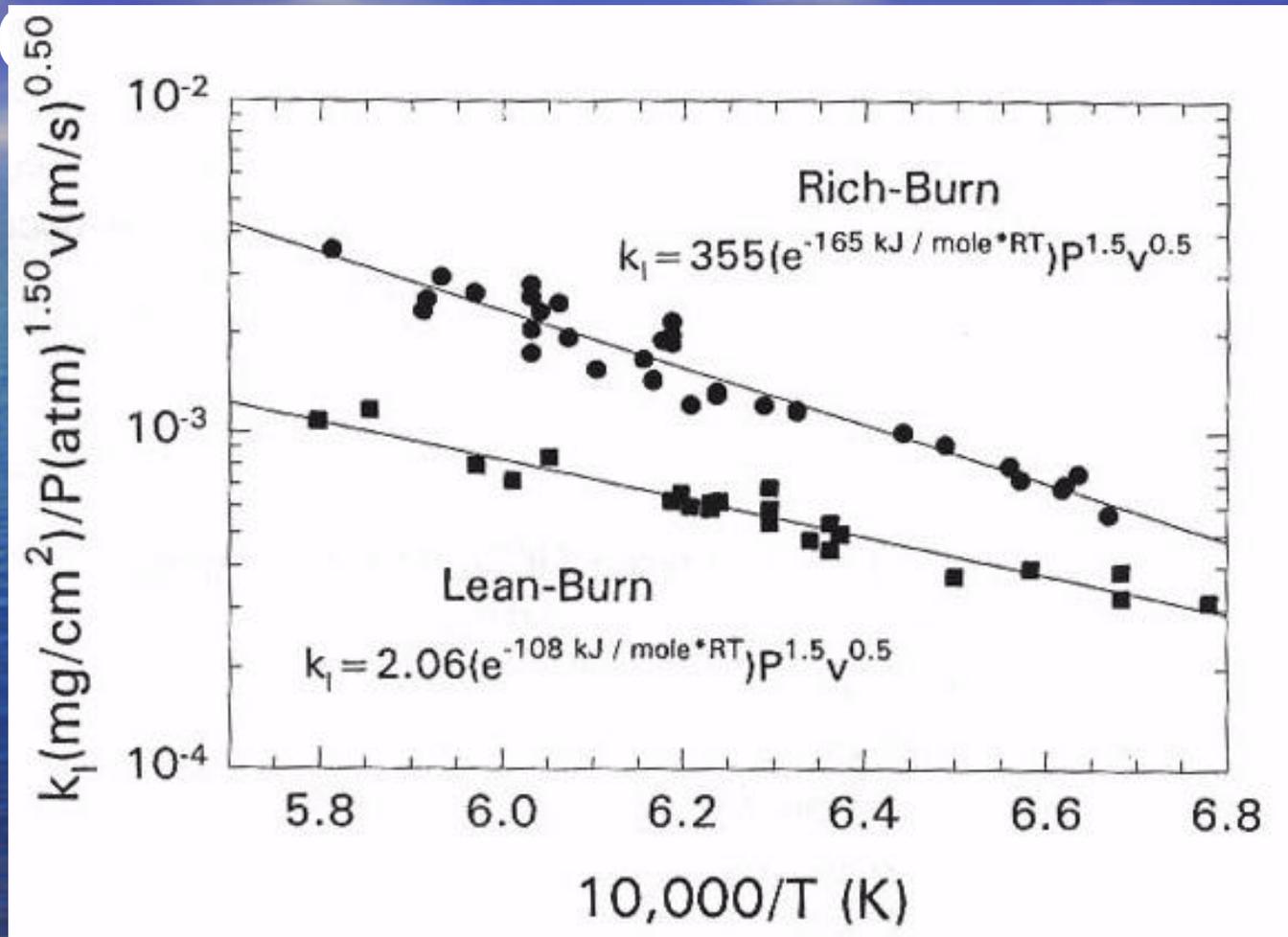
SiC and Si₃N₄ recession under combustor conditions



Smialek, et al, Adv Comp Mater, 1999

Unprotected Oxidation Leads to Recession

Loss of
 SiO_2 layer
allows
substrate
oxidation
&
recession



Smialek, et al, Adv Comp Mater, 1999

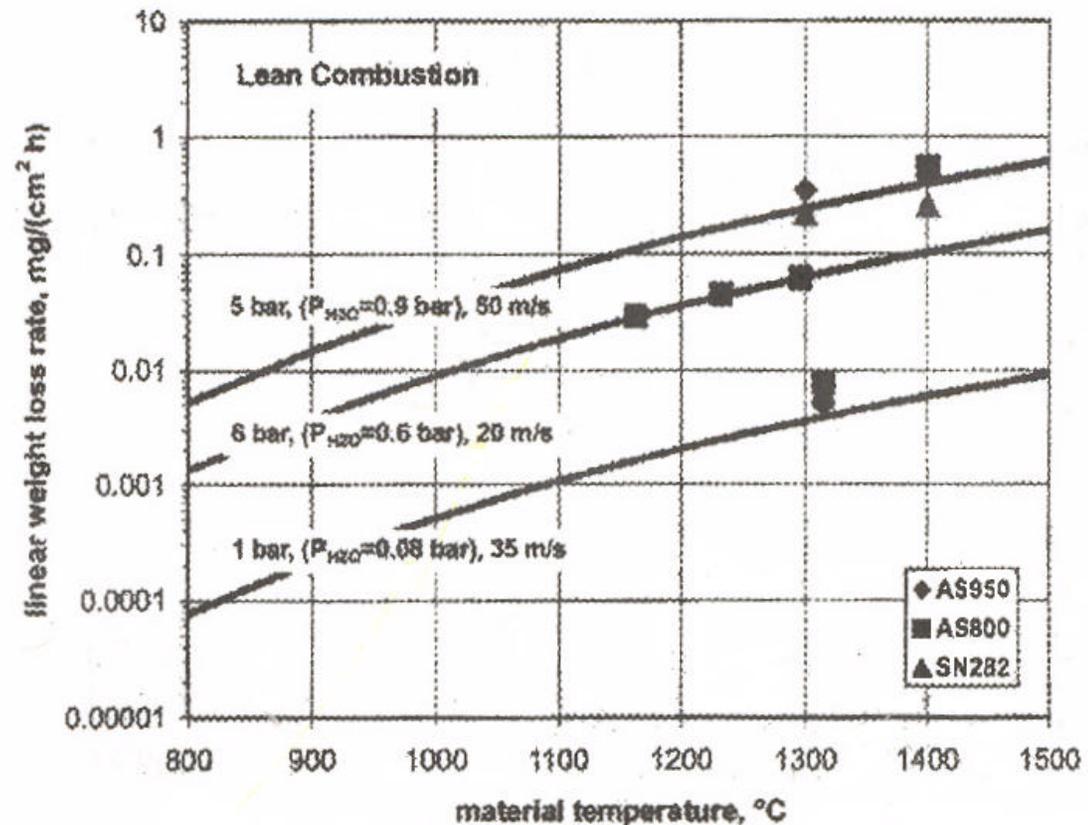
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Advanced Si_3N_4 s are Vulnerable to Recession

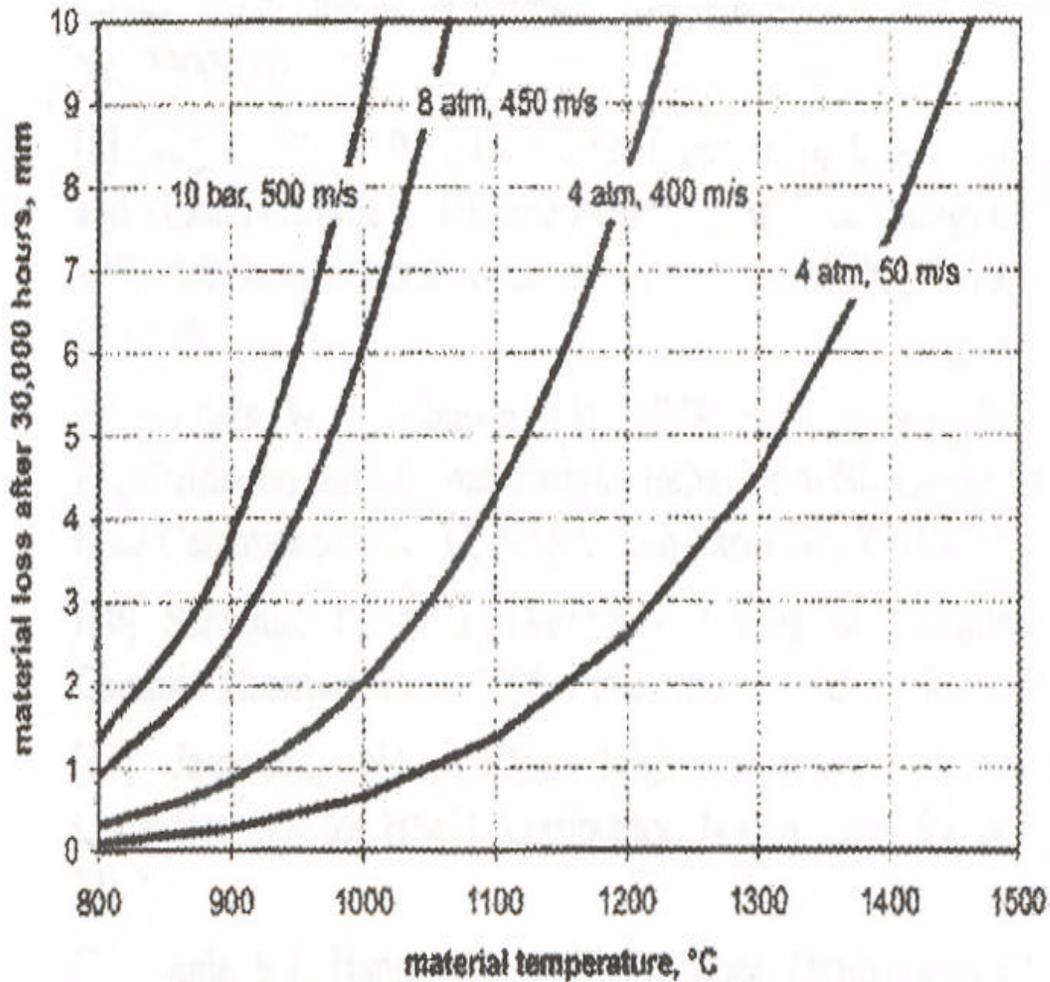
- SN282
- AS800
- AS950
- $\text{Si}_3\text{N}_4/\text{MoSi}_2 + \text{Y}$ or Yb

• All recessed at .24 to .6 mg/cm²/hr in a combustion environment, 1400C, 5 bar

[Klemm, 2001a; Schenk et al, ASME 2001-GT-459]



Microturbine Conditions Require EBC Protection



Schenk, et al, 2001

Providing Environmental Resistance is Challenging

- Self healing SiO_2 not effective against water vapor
- Transport in SiO_2 is affected more by low level impurities than Al_2O_3 and Cr_2O_3 [Pareek et al, 1991, Zheng et al, 1992]
- Additives or impurities in surface layers increase oxidation rates, oxygen diffusion rate, change the rate controlling mechanism, and alter the oxide scale structure [Opila et al, 2000]
- Even with low oxygen diffusion coatings, silica will form under coatings
- Si_3N_4 & SiO_2 have low CTE: CTE mismatch leads to interface cracks & debonding
- Surface treatments to enhance adherence may

Requirements for Environmental Protection

- Environmental Durability in a hot gas environment
 - Oxidation resistance, low oxygen permeability
 - Resistance to Water vapor
 - Stability against hot gas constituents
 - Low volatility
 - > 10,000 hour life
 - Resistant to erosion, impact
- Chemical compatibility with SiO_2 that will form on substrate
- Stable microstructure & phases – grain size, porosity, non sintering or cracking
- Thermal expansion compatibility
- Must survive cyclic exposure
- Prefer a low elastic modulus

Solutions to Corrosion Must Not Conflict with Other Needs for Ceramics

- Reliability
 - High Fracture toughness w/ low scatter
 - Resistance to slow crack growth and creep
 - Oxidation, corrosion resistance
 - Impact resistance
- Formability
 - Complex, thick and thin shapes
 - Stringent dimensional control
 - Smooth aerodynamic surfaces
- Sinterability w/o expensive HIP processing
- Inspectability
- **Affordability**
- All needs must be achieved for success

Approaches to Protection

- Atmosphere control: minimize formation of corrosive species
- Alloy improvements
 - In situ or Self Generating protective surface layer
- Protective Coatings

Corrosion (Oxidation) Challenge of C-C, C-SiC, SiC-SiC

- Vulnerability to attack of fibers, interfaces or matrices via cracks from CTE mismatch and strain cracks.
- Approaches:
- Surface coatings: Si_3N_4 and SiC identified as good candidates [Strife et al, 1988]
- Glass forming compounds containing Si, B, Hf, Cr, Ti [Boullion, et al, 2002, Joshi et al, 1996]
- Y_2SiO_5 low CTE, plasma sprayed with YSi_x intermediate layer survived 1 hr at 1800C on C/C [Ogura, et al, 1995] Spalled in 7 cycles to 1700C [Ogura, et al, 2001]

Self Generating Protection is Attractive

- Use additives that produce or self repair oxide coating with H₂O resistance.
- May not add expensive steps to processing
- Combustion results with Yb₂O₃ sintering additive [Klemm, 2001a]
 - Exposure removed SiO₂, but left a Yb₂Si₂O₇ layer
 - Disilicates has a higher chemical stability, but spalled (CTE ~ 5 x 10⁻⁶/C,
- Combustion results, Yb₂O₃ as sintering additive and disilicate EBC [Klemm, 2001a]
 - Homogenous, crack free E- beam coating obtained
 - Exposure resulted in cracks from SiO₂ crystallization
 - SiO₂ below the EBC was protected, recession prevented

MoSi₂, SiC_p in Si₃N₄ Influence the Oxidation Process

- Both composites form Si₂N₂O interlayer below SiO₂ surface [Klemm, 1997]
 - Si₂N₂O beneath SiO₂ in pure Si₃N₄ is responsible for lower oxidation rate for Si₃N₄ than SiC [Du et al, 1989a, Ogbuji & Opila, 1995]
 - Si₂N₂O has a low oxygen diffusion [Du et al 1989b, Tressler, 1990]
 - Si₂N₂O has good oxidation resistance and high temperature strength (~600 800 MPa) [Park, D. S. et al, 2002; Ohashi et al]
 - Si₂N₂O reduces cation driving force to the surface
- MoSi₂ phase may provide high temperature ductile-phase toughening [Detrevis, 1997]

Early Environmental Coatings Addressed Corrosion

- Solar study for RB SiC & SiC. [Price et al, 1994]
- Plasma sprayed mullite, graded mullite, cordierite, zircon, alumina, yttria, chromia, hafnia, and YSZ
- Plasma spraying, 5-15% porosity typical
- Best corrosion resistance/adherence to 1204C:
 - Single layer mullite
 - Graded mullite to Al_2O_3
 - Graded mullite to Y
- Best results for mullite adherence with surface prep: 1) SiC particles brazed to surface, or 2) proprietary etching: implies mechanical bond
- Surface treatment degraded the strength, but coating restored it

Alternate Approaches Evaluated

- Slurry coatings containing mullites: cracked in thermal exposure [Federer, '98, '90]
- CVD Ta_2O_5 stable to 1000C, but reactive with Na_2SO_4 [Lee, W.Y. et al, 1995]
- Fully crystallized PS mullite adhered to 1200 hr up to 1300C, still cracks [Lee, K.N. et al, 1995]
- CVD Mullite developed [Mulpuri, R.P et al, 1996]
- CVD crystalline mullite on SiC provided

Coating Development Continued

[Lee, K.N. 2000a, 2002b, 2000c]

- In the 90's, focus shifted to silicon volatility in water vapor:
 - SiC surface roughened by Na_2CO_3 etching for adherence
 - PS mullite lost silica during exposure, high silicon activity(0.3-.04)
 - Mullite w/YSZ top coat suppressed SiO_2 volatilization, but H_2O penetrated cracks
- Lessons learned:
 - PS Mullite bond primarily mechanical, weak,
 - Residual amorphous mullite and alumina, impurities resulted in phase instability/shrinkage/cracks
 - CTE mismatch (5.6 vs 4.7 ppm/C for mullite and SiC) stresses resulted in cracking

Modified Mullite System Improves EBC on SiC

- BSAS attractive for SiC, but low silica activity (<0.1), crack sealing capability. [Lee, 2002a], but reacts with silica
- MoSi_2 /Mullite + BSAS / BSAS delayed onset of accelerated oxidation in water vapor [Lee et al, 2000c; Lee, et al, in press]
- Si found to be excellent bond coat for mullite on SiC
- Si reacts with BSAS, so mullite or mullite + BSAS used as intermediate layer
- Initially mullite+BSAS intermediate layer preferred due to difficulty in achieving crack free mullite
- Both mullite and mullite +BSAS intermediate systems provided $\sim 14,000$ hours on SiC/SiC in engine; some EBC volatility & spalling observed [Eaton et al, 2001]
- Long term temperature limit $\sim 1200\text{C}$, adherence

UTRC Showing EBC Progress on



- [Si₃N₄ al₂O₃ TEOS] match increase of 1.5 ppm/C from SiC
- EBC on Si₃N₄ FT8 vane: 31 hours/ 15 atm/ 1200 to 1230C/ max velocity ~.7 M: No spalling, strong bond, protected substrate
- 1204C / 2000 hr Keiser rig exposure shows protection on SN, but CTE cracks will reduce long term effectiveness
- At 1350C, Si bond coat oxidizes, Eutectic in BSAS/SiO₂ system estimated at 1350C. Could last few 1000 hours
- BSAS/mullite--B SAS interface stable for 500 hours in 1450C steam
- System temp capability can be increased by

NASA Focusing on EBC's for SiC/SiC

- Focusing on 1482C (2700F) use temperature, 166C (300F) temperature drop through coating
- Currently identifying temperature limit for Si/mullite/BSAS + YSZ systems
- Si/Mullite EBC crack, provide water vapor path
- BSAS recession significant above 1400C [Lee et al, in press]
- Mullite an effective chemical barrier between mullite + BSAS and YSZ to 1500C
- Si/Mullite + BSAS/graded mullite+YSZ/YSZ partially spalled after 270 hours at 1400C

Challenges Remain for Si-

Mullite-BSAS EBC [Lee, 2002b; Sun et al,

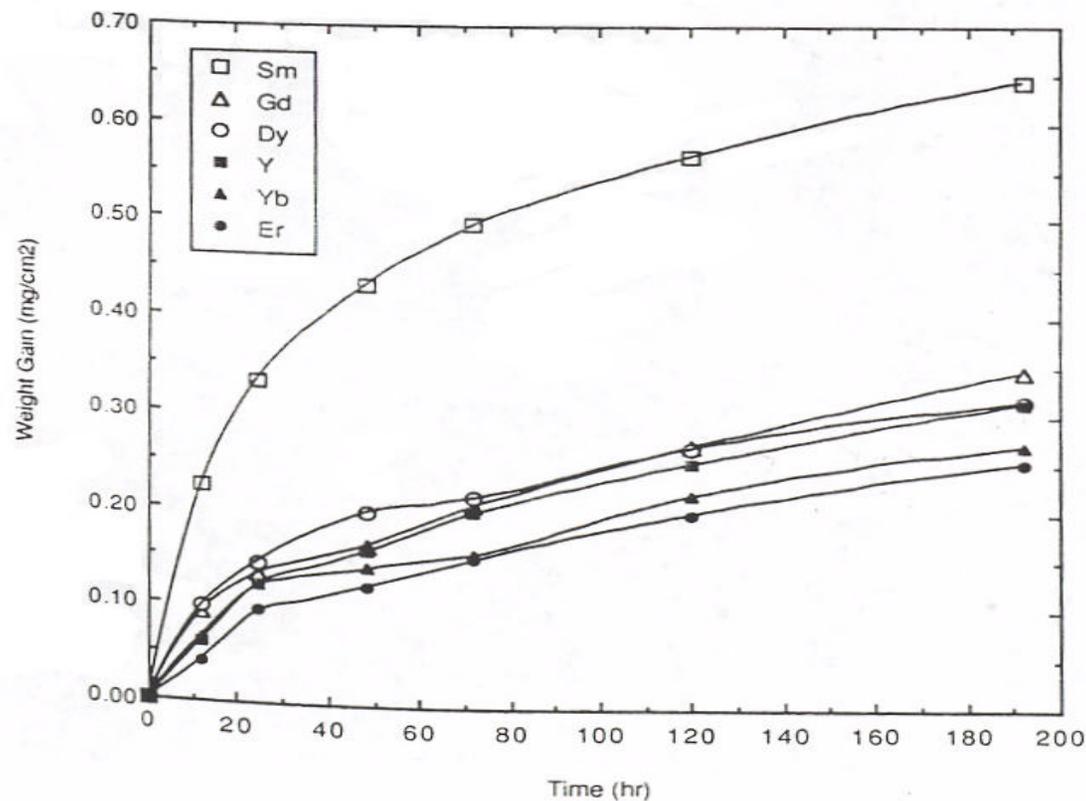
2002b] uniform coating thickness, Si porosity on non line-of-sight areas "Smoothing" observed on BSAS topcoat after engine exposure: erosion possible

- Long term stability of multi-component system on multi-constituent Si_3N_4 unknown
- Sintering aids may influence stability of Si bond coat
- Surface treatments to enhance adherence of bond coat often degrade substrate or strength
- 500-750 μm thickness
- Implications of slow hexagonal to monoclinic celsian conversion are unknown, particularly for high temperature applications
- Potentially vulnerable to erosion in high velocity areas
- Durability demonstration of BSAS EBC on SN for long term is needed

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• Critical to optimize the coating for CTE match and

Disilicates Offer Low Oxidation Rates

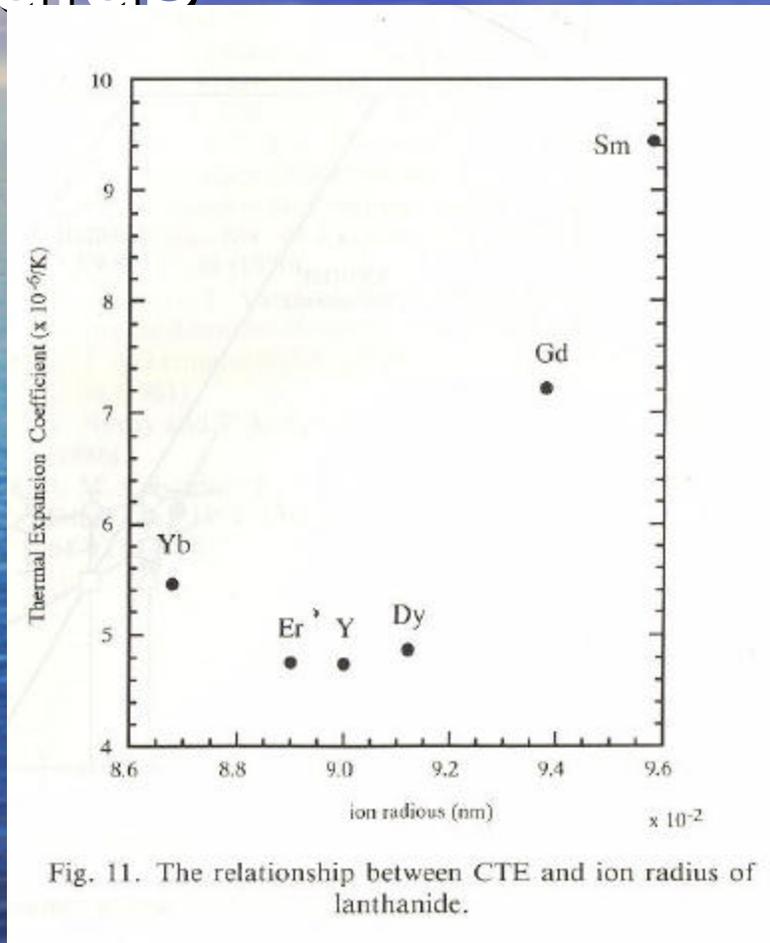


RE Disilicates show parabolic weight loss in oxidation

Er, Yb show lowest oxidation rate

[Cinibulk, et al, 1992]

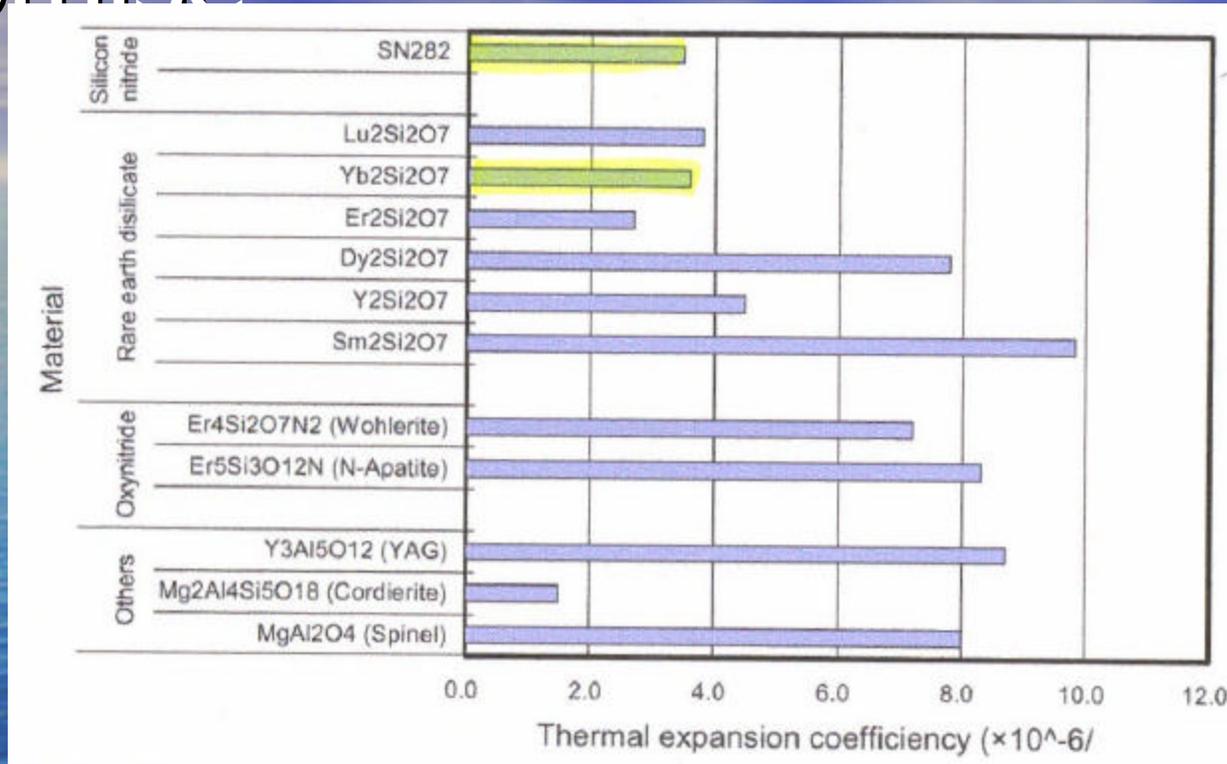
Disilicate CTE related to Ionic Radius



CTE tailoring may be possible with blended RE disilicates

Morimoto, et al, 1995

Disilicate Coating Shows Promise



- Candidates experimentally screened for water vapor resistance & CTE
- Yb₂Si₂O₇ and Lu₂Si₂O₇ did not lose weight after 15 atm saturated water vapor pressure @ 200C
- Yb₂Si₂O₇ has best CTE match with Si₃N₄ [Fukudome et al]

David C. Cantor, et al. and W. S. Courtright

$\text{Yb}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_7$ Continues to Show Promise

- $\text{Yb}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_7$ Coated SN282 did not cracking or show crystal structure change in cyclic exposure + 20 hr burner rig exposure
- Engine components coated by slurry, $\sim 30\mu\text{m}$ thick
- Turbine nozzles and combustor liner coated, to be tested in 2002

Y_xSiO_y offers Tailorable CTEs

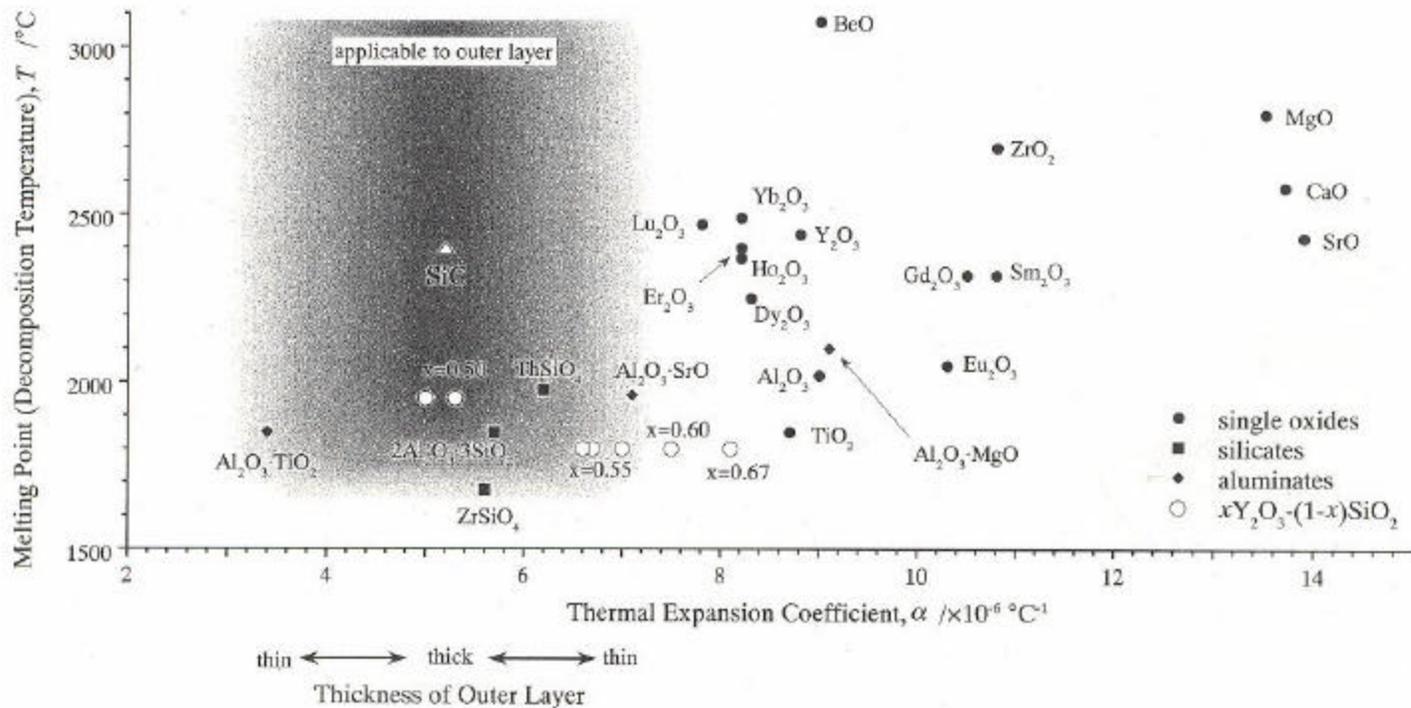


Fig. 11 Thermal expansion coefficients⁽²⁴⁾ and melting points of refractory oxides. The area shown by shadowing indicates applicability to the outer layer of our oxidation resistant coating.

Ogura, et al, 1999

Lessons Learned for Coatings on



Application methods

- Plasma spray: layered, porous microstructure, strain tolerant, cost effective, scale-up capability, wide use, non uniform thickness, line of sight application.

Key Issues must be economical, and applicable to small, complex shapes

- CTE mismatch is a significant concern.
- Mechanical bonds are typically weak, especially when CTE mismatch is large. Mechanical bonding to rougher surfaces improves adherence but may reduce strength of

Lessons cont'd

- Low modulus systems help, e.g.. BSAS, mullite + BSAS
- Si, and possibly MoSi_2 , are beneficial bond coatings
- During combustion atmosphere exposures, sintering additives can remain and concentrate on the surface, providing a possible means of developing a protective surface oxide
- Phase changes, such as amorphous to crystalline, can be problematic.
- Systematic, continuous improvement approach such as NASA & UTRC appears to be fruitful
- Disilicates, which are compatible with substrates, have water vapor resistant, and CTE match may

Lessons cont'd

- A successful coating will require:
 - A chemical bond to provide good adherence to SiO_2
 - A CTE match or low modulus for strain tolerance
 - A top coating for water vapor resistance
 - A TBC for higher temperature applications
- These requirements may be met in a single or multiple layer coating.

Cyclic Testing has not been adequately Addressed [He et al]

- Thermally grown oxides often develop at substrate-coating interface during high temperature exposure
- Growth strains may relax at high temperatures.
- Upon cool down, other components of the coating may yield with temperature dependent yield strength
- Tensile stresses increase with cyclic exposures
- This effect is not evaluated in static durability testing

Alternate Systems Worth

Assessing

- Coatings

- RE disilicates
- YAG, YBAG, $ZrSiO_2$ ($ZrSiO_2$ incompatible with SiC, harmful to mullite [Price et al])
- YAlSi – Amorphous YAS showed no degradation in 250C /15 atmosphere steam for 8700 hrs [Armstrong]
- CaMgAlSi system
- Others
- Bond Coat: Si_2N_2O , $MoSi_2$, disilicates, others

Alternate Application Methods Worth Assessing

- Focus on application methods suitable for complex shapes:
 - Displacement Reactions [Tiegs, Lowden]
 - Liquid metal
 - Pack cementation
 - Gas phase
 - Slurry, [Armstrong] sol gel, or polymer precursors applications
 - Dip coating
 - Spray coating
 - Spin coating
 - Vacuum infiltration
 - Reaction sintering of multilayer dipped coatings [Asayama et al, 2002]

Analytical Screening Approaches Should be Included

- Examples

- Coatings for fiber coating candidates analytically screened for Thermodynamic, Physical, Mechanical, Stability [Gonczy et al, 2002]
- Ceramic Materials analyzed for Chemical Stability in H_2 and $H_2 + H_2O$ [Misra, 1990]



Recommendations for Improved Environmental Resistance

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Roadmap for Improved Materials Data Base for Environmental Resistance

- Establish a database resource for thermodynamic, physical, and chemical properties important to coating analysis and evaluation
- Data base:
 - For candidate bond coats: assess chemical bond to SiO_2
 - CTE
 - Silica activity
 - Water vapor resistance
 - Chemical & phase stability couples
 - Bond strength
- Perform testing to characterize the effect of the protection system on fast fracture and time dependent properties for use in life analysis codes
- Continue the development of test techniques to measure

Roadmap of Material Development for Environmental Resistance

- Screen and analyze candidates and candidate couples based on database knowledge
- Identify thermo-chemical data base needs
- Perform experimental evaluations of couples for bonding, chemical and phase stability, cyclic durability
- Perform experimental multilayer compatibility & stability evaluations
- Consider a porous surface layer between the substrate and EBC to provide strain tolerance and potential impact energy absorption?

Roadmap for Design and Life Prediction for Environmental Resistance

- Determine coating bonding strength requirements for static and rotating parts
- Effect of protection system on fast fracture and time dependent properties
- Incorporate the effect of coatings into the life analysis codes

Roadmap for Non Destructive Evaluation for Environmental Resistance

- Continue the development of NDE methods to assess coating adherence and integrity
- Continue to correlate coating bonding and integrity in service with NDE results
- Develop effective methods to detect coating deterioration before it becomes critical.
- Develop a low cost method to assess coating thickness/uniformity on complex

Roadmap for Fabrication and Process Development for Environmental Resistance

- Develop Low cost, robust application methods suitable for complex shapes
- Surface treatments to improve adherence without inducing strength loss
- System must be cost competitive

Acknowledgements

- DOE and ORNL for funding support
- Jerry Brockmeyer, Ultramet
- Munjal Chheda and Rajendra K. Bordia, Univ. of Washington
- Hagen Klemm, Fraunhofer Institute
- NASA Staff: Doug Kiser, Kang Lee, Jim Smialek, Michael Virrelli
- ORNL Staff: Beth Armstrong, Paul Becher, Craig Blue, Mike Brady, Matt Ferber, Allen Haynes, Edgar Lara-Curzio, HT Lin, Rick Lowden, Karren More, Steve Nunn, Dave Stinton, Terry Tiegs, Peter Tortorelli
- Dave Richerson, Dave Richerson & Associates
- Mark van Roode, Solar Turbines
- Bjoern Schenk, Honeywell
- Ellen Sun, UTBC

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