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《MAX 相与 MXene 专辑》序

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我们熟知的金属材料一般具有良好的导电导热性、常温下可塑性变形、可切削加工、良好的抗 热震与机械冲击性能、较低的硬度等特征;而陶瓷材料一般则具有较高的弹性模量、高温力学性能、 抗氧化、耐腐蚀等特征。但是,兼备上述性能特征的材料直到 MAX 相作为一种新型材料出现在我 们的视野时才得以实现。

 $M_{n+1}AX_n$ 相在 2000 年由 Barsoum 教授命名,并随后简称为 MAX 相。随着 n 值的变化,MAX 相有 M_2AX 、 M_3AX_2 以及 M_4AX_3 等,分别简称为 211、312、413 相。更高阶的 MAX 相如 514、615、715 相也见诸文献报道。有关 MAX 相的详情可参阅我的一篇综述论文 (*International Materials Review*, 2011, 56: 143)。

对 MAX 相的研究可追溯至上世纪 60 年代维也纳大学 Nowotny 研究组的系列研究论文,其中将这类材料定义为 M₂BC 相或 H 相。当时他们报道的 211 相有 30 多种。但是经过几十年的发展,211 相于 2000 年已增至 46 种。当时 Nowotny 研究组报道的 312 相只有两种,90 年代发现的 Ti_3AlC_2 进一步地拓展了 312 相的种类。如今 312 相已包括 Ti_3SiC_2 、 Ti_3GeC_2 、 Ti_3AlC_2 、 Ti_3SnC_2 、 Ti_3AlC_2 、($V_{0.5}Cr_{0.5}$)₃ AlC_2 等。目前,312 相中得到最广泛深入研究的是 Ti_3SiC_2 。第一个 413 相 Ti_4AlN_3 发现于 2000 年,距 211 相的发现已近 40 年。亚稳的 413 相 Ti_4SiC_3 、 Ti_4GeC_3 等存在于外延生长的薄膜中,而块体 413 相 Ta_4AlC_3 、 Nb_4AlC_3 、 V_4AlC_3 、 Ti_4GaC_3 也相继出现。MAX 相种类的拓展,尤其在 413 相方面的快速扩展,预示着在这一领域的潜在可能与创新前景。

过去的十几年里,MAX 相的研究得到持续快速的增长,而另外三个重要的发现则给这一领域注入了更加新鲜的血液。其一是 MXene 的发现,MXene 是将 MAX 相中的 A 层原子通过化学方法去除后得到的二维碳化物或氮化物;其二是面外有序 MAX 相的发现;其三是 2013 年磁性 MAX 相的发现。

因此,《现代技术陶瓷》组织这期 MAX 相与 MXene 专刊是非常必要的。人们对 MAX 相与 MXene 的兴趣源自这两种材料广泛的应用前景。MAX 相正在诸如原子能工业、加热器、高铁受电 弓滑板、低摩擦材料、金属/MAX 复合材料以及航空部件的热障涂层等领域发挥作用。有趣的是,MXene 因其优异的性能,尤其是在储能材料方面的出色表现,有望超越其前驱体 MAX 相,得到更快更广泛的应用。

Metallic materials are typically characterized by being thermally and electrically conductive, plastically deformable at room temperature, readily machinable, thermal shock resistant, damage tolerant, relatively soft, etc. On the other hand, ceramics are generally characterized by high elastic moduli, good high temperature mechanical properties, good oxidation and corrosion resistance, etc. However, until the

relatively recent discovery of MAX phases, materialsthat possess both metallic and ceramic characteristics have been unavailable.

The term " $M_{n+1}AX_n$ phase" was used for the first time by Barsoum in 2000, and was later abbreviated to MAX. Depending on the value of n, the M_2AX , M_3AX_2 and M_4AX_3 phases are usually referred to 211, 312 and 413 phases, respectively. Higher order MAX phases such as 514, 615 and 716 phases have also been observed. More details can found in a table in my review paper (*International Materials Review*, 2011, 56: 143).

The study of the MAX phases dates back to the work published in the early 1960s by Nowotny and his group in Vienna, who sometimes labeled them the M_2BC phases and sometimes the H-phases. Among the compounds reported are more than thirty 211 phases. In 2000, Barsoum listedforty six 211 phases. Ti_3SiC_2 , a 312 compound, is the most extensively studied MAX phase so far. The number of 312 phases remained at two, until the early 90's when Ti_3AlC_2 was discovered. Very recently, however, the 312 family doubled in size with the discovery of Ti_3SnC_2 Ta_3AlC_2 , and $(V_{0.5}Cr_{0.5})_3AlC_2$. The first 413 phase, Ti_4AlN_3 , was discovered in 2000, nearly 40 years after the 211 phases. Metastable Ti_4SiC_3 and Ti_4GeC_3 were found during epitaxial thin film synthesis. Bulk Ta_4AlC_3 , Nb_4AlC_3 , V_4AlC_3 and Ti_4GaC_3 have recently been synthesized and extensively studied. The rapid expansion of the list of the MAX phases, particularly in the 413 phases, is encouraging and suggests that this is a fruitful line of research for the discovery of new MAX phases.

While research on the MAX phases was increasing more or steadily over the past decade, three recent discoveries have caught more attention. The first was the discovery that some A-layers can be selectively etched, producing a new family of 2D early transition metal carbides and/or nitrides that was labeled MXenes, again by Barsoum. The second is the discovery of out of plane ordered MAX phases. Lastly, the discovery of magnetic MAX phases in Sweden in 2013 is also an important development.

It is therefore timely that this issue of *Advanced Ceramics* is devoted to MAX/MXene research. One of the main reasons researchers are interested in the MAX and MXene phases is the large range of potential applications. The MAX phases are being considered for use in the nuclear industry, as heating elements, pantographs for high speed trains, low friction materials, metal/MAX composites and thermal barrier coatings for aerospace applications, among others. Interestingly, because of the extraordinary properties of MXenes, especially as energy storage materials, they may find widespread use faster than their parent MAX phases.



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国家千人计划,任教于东南大学材料学院。开设本科生《材料科学基础》全英文课程,开展 MAX 相/MXene 及其复合材料等在环境与能源方面的基础与应用研究。