ESPark Research Group

Application of metallic foams

A promising candidate of thermal insulation and bio-compatible materials

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Current status of structural materials on **02APR2018**

1. Fabrication of High entropy alloy foams





> Introduction of thermal shield material

- 1) What is the **thermal shield** material?
- 2) Needs and problems of **metal matrix thermal shield**

> How can we fabricate HEA foam ?

- 1) Alloy design for fabricating HEA foam : Phase separating HEA
- 2) Fabricating method : **Dealloying process**

> What are the advantages of HEA foam ?

- 1) **Porous structure** of HEA foam
- 2) Thermal and Mechanical properties of HEA foam

Thermal shielding property : Resistance to thermal flux





> High strength, large ductility and high formability are needed !

Current status of structural materials : Applications of metallic foams





- Strong & Ductile
- High formability
- **Heavy** Constituted with heavy elements
- **High conductivity** Due to the free electrons











(1) Thermodynamics : high entropy effect (2)

(3) Structure : severe lattice distortion effect

(2) Kinetics : sluggish diffusion effect

(4) Property : cocktail effect

> HEA is stable especially at high temperature

$$\Delta G_{config.} = \Delta H_{config.} - T \Delta S_{config.}$$



Due to the **high phase stability** and **high melting point** of HEA, it is hard to fabricate foam with conventional methods.

Dealloying process

	Metal	Index (V)
ΤΟμΠ	Most cathodic	
	Gold	- 0.00
	Copper	-0.35
	Iron	-0.85
	Zinc	-1.25
	Magnesium	-1.85
Corrosion Science 67 (2013) 100-108, Xuekun Luo et al.	Most anodic	

is a corrosion type in some solid alloys, when in suitable conditions a component of the alloys is preferentially leached from the material.

Alloy design : Phase separating HEA









Cu-rich region is separated even at high entropy condition.





1) SEM image (tilted 45°)

> Dendritic directional pores are fabricated after dealloying.

Need to confirm **connectivity** of pores

3-D tomography by serial sectioning

Microstructure confirmation : 3-D tomography





Pseudo-binary phase diagram of PS-HEA





Pseudo-binary system between FeCoCrNi and Cu shows monotectic reaction having liquid separation region.





At low porosity, HEA foam **preserves its yield strength** which was about 200 MPa.

However, after about 25 % of Cu content, the yield strength drops severely.

Pseudo-binary phase diagram of PS-HEA





Pseudo-binary system between FeCoCrNi and Cu shows monotectic reaction having liquid separation region.



a) Hypo-monotectic reaction (20 at.% of Cu)







Thick & Long dendrites

Dendrites of hypo-monotectic condition are **interconnected** well.









Liquid phase separation

Dendritic growth of FCC 1

Thin and short dendrites







Longer than 100 µm

Thermal diffusivity/conductivity of HEA foam



Thermal diffusivity decreases exponentially against the composition of Cu which is proportional to porosity.





Low thermal diffusivity of HEA foam





> HEA foam shows similar thermal diffusivity value with ceramic foams

2. Fabrication of **Biocompatible Co-Cr foams**





> Fabrication of porous Co-Cr alloy by LMD process

- Introduction of bio-compatible Co-Cr alloy
- Fabrication method : Liquid metal dealloying process, LMD
- Microstructure optimization Process condition control

> Properties of Co-Cr alloy foams

Biocompatibility

- > Hydrophilic test : Water drop test
- Osteoblast cultivation on Co-Cr alloy foam
- Mechanical properties
 - Compressive properties of Co-Cr alloy foam





- ✓ High corrosion and fatigue resistance
- ✓ Good mechanical properties fracture toughness and strength

+ Porous structure?

> Porous Co-Cr alloy can be a good candidate for implant materials





✓ Porous Co-Cr alloy is normally fabricated by sintering powder

- It is hard to control property of porous structure with sintering technique Connectivity
- A material developed by sintering is normally exhibiting brittleness due to defects

New method to fabricate porous structure of Co-Cr alloy is needed !

Liquid metal dealloying process – Thermodynamics for pore fabrication



 $5 \mu m$





Metallic materials can be dealloyed by a liquid metal as well as an etchant





- ✓ To obtain target composition which is Co_3Cr , precursor was prepared with composition of Co_4Cr -Ni.
- ✓ The precursor alloy was **ternary single solid solution** of cobalt, chromium and nickel.

> Ternary alloy was designed with consideration of thermodynamic correlation



1) SEM image



- The precursor alloy, Co₄₀Cr₁₀Ni₅₀, was immersed in **1000°C Ca melt for 10 minutes** \checkmark
- After LMD process, well-connected Ca rich phase was formed in several mm depth \checkmark
- Etched in 0.3M nitric acid, the Ca-rich phase disappeared and only Co-Cr alloy phase remains \checkmark

Porous Co-Cr alloy was successfully fabricated by LMD process





- ✓ The porosity was successfully controlled by changing Ni content
 - which has negative enthalpy of mixing with Ca.
- ✓ Very small amount of Ni is still remaining in Co-Cr alloy foam.
 - Because Ni has solubility limit, 7at.%, to Co-Cr alloy, small amount of Ni can be remained.
 - And the ratio between Co and Cr was changed to 3:1 after LMD process

> It is possible to control porosity by changing composition of precursor



Free energy of dealloying

$$\mathbf{F} = \boldsymbol{\alpha} \mathbf{c}(\mathbf{1}-\mathbf{c}) - \mathbf{K} \cdot \mathbf{T}[\mathbf{clnc} + (\mathbf{1}-\mathbf{c})\mathbf{ln}(\mathbf{1}-\mathbf{c})]$$
$$\alpha = 6(\mathbf{E}_{a-b} - (1/2)(\mathbf{E}_{a-a} + \mathbf{E}_{b-b}))$$

$$K_{\alpha} = \frac{[A^-][H_3O^+]}{[HA][H_2O]}$$

- $Ca + 2 H_2 O = Ca(OH)_2 + H_2$ • $K_{\alpha,H2O} = 10^{-14}$: Meaningless value
- 4 Ca + 10 HNO₃ = 4 Ca(NO₃)₂ + N₂O + 5 H₂O
 K_{α,H2O} = 20 : Considerable influence

Etchant can affect surface morphology of Co-Cr alloy foam









✓ Every foam is more hydrophilic than Co-Cr alloy because of its porous structure

• This is because of not only intrinsic property of Co-Cr alloy but also the porous structure

Biocompatibility can be enhanced by surface morphology of porous structure

Osteoblast cultivation on Co-Cr alloy foams





✓ Co-Cr alloy shows very high **bio-compatibility itself** – Several cells are well-attached on the surface

✓ Every sample with various porosity **shows good bio-compatibility** which is similar to Co-Cr alloy





- ✓ Elastic modulus of Co-Cr alloy foam decreased according to increase of porosity
- ✓ **Compressive strength** of Co-Cr alloy foam was **enough high** by comparison with Ti alloy foam

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THANK YOU FOR

YOUR KIND ATTENTION

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