

Mechanical Properties and Plastic Deformation Mechanism of Alumina Nanocrystalline Ceramics

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Abstract

Excellent and superior properties of alumina (Al₂O₃) nanocrystalline ceramic make it a one of the highly demanded advanced ceramics in the present competitive scenario of manufacturing and industrial applications. α -Al₂O₃ nanoparticles with average particle size of 3.4, 5.2, 7.2 and 12.5 nm a series of Al₂O₃ nanocrystalline ceramic samples were prepared by grain size variation. (Two-step sintering). The inverse Hall Pitch relationship between the microhardness and grain size of Al₂O₃ nanocrystalline ceramic was observed. Critical grain size exists at which the properties of α - Al₂O₃ nanocrystalline ceramics change significantly. Indentation method was employed to test the fracture toughness of Al₂O₃ nanocrystalline ceramic. When the grain size decreased from 297 nm to 33 nm, the fracture toughness increased from 3.04±0.19 to 4.52±0.13 MPa·m^{1/2}. The enhance of the diffusional creep rate and grain-boundary may be the causes of the improvement of fracture toughness. The maximum microhardness of α -Al₂O₃ Nanocrystalline ceramics (NCCs) with grain size is 22.32 GPa. Microstructure evaluation study of alumina Nanocrystalline ceramics is carried out by SEM, TEM and EDX. To study the microhardness and fracture toughness of aluminian nanocrystalline ceramics Vickers hardness test is performed. Further focusing on Investigate the behavior of positive and negative Hall pitch behavior by experimental and theoretical model results and evaluate the deformation mechanisms of alumina Nanocrystalline ceramics.

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