

spherical particles of CoO and Co₃O₄ that have specific surface areas smaller than 5 m²/g. Standard coin cells were assembled in a helium-filled glove box, which contains a plastic positive-electrode disk and a 1-cm² Li foil (as the negative-electrode member), thermally laminated to the metal grid current collectors. A borosilicate glass-fiber sheet, used as a separator, was saturated with a 1 M LiPF₆ electrolyte solution in a 1:1 (by weight) dimethyl carbonate/ethylene carbonate. Electrochemical tests were performed using an automatic cycling and data-recording system.

A series of different mass ratios (M_r) of CoO/LiCoO₂ and Co₃O₄/LiCoO₂ were attempted to optimize electrochemical performance as a function of particle size. Results showed that the best electrochemical performance is achieved at a particle size of 1 μ m. Both systems were able to discharge and recharge for at least 80 cycles at a higher M_r with only minimal capacity decay at room temperature and 100% capacity retention for up to 50 cycles, after an initial irreversible capacity loss during the first cycle. At higher temperature, capacity loss for both Li-ion cells was not significantly affected.

To bypass the capacity loss during the first cycle, the researchers replaced the LiCoO₂ positive-electrode material with Li_{1+x}Mn₂O₄ as a Li reservoir. By applying this strategy, they were able to compensate the initial irreversible capacity loss. Further calculations also support the researchers' observations that the performance of the 3D metal oxide electrodes is comparable to commercialized C/LiCoO₂ Li-ion cells, at a lower voltage.

KINSON C. KAM

3D Tungsten/SiO₂ Structure Yields Infrared Photonic Bandgap

Three-dimensional (3D) arrangements of tungsten rods embedded in SiO₂ have been shown to have photonic bandgaps in the infrared region. S.Y. Lin and J.G. Fleming from Sandia National Laboratories and K.M. Ho and R. Biswas from the Ames Laboratory at Iowa State University have demonstrated this method for the fabrication of 3D tungsten crystals (W-3D) in the May 2 issue of *Nature*.

One of the challenges facing the development of metallic infrared-region photonics is the ability to selectively and precisely deposit or arrange arrays of metallic crystals in three dimensions. The researchers overcame this obstacle by utilizing micro-fabricated polysilicon/SiO₂ structures as crystal molds. The structure reported consisted of a polysilicon/SiO₂ photonic-bandgap structure with polysilicon rods in a stacking sequence inside the SiO₂ that

repeated itself every four layers, with a face-centered-tetragonal lattice symmetry. These polysilicon rods were removed by etching in 6 M KOH at 85°C. This effectively left linear voids in SiO₂. An adhesion layer of TiN was then deposited, followed by chemical vapor deposition of tungsten, which resulted in W-3D crystals. Thin "keyholes" were located in the center of the tungsten rods. The tungsten layer was removed from the surface by mechanical polishing, and the SiO₂ was removed by HF (see Figure).

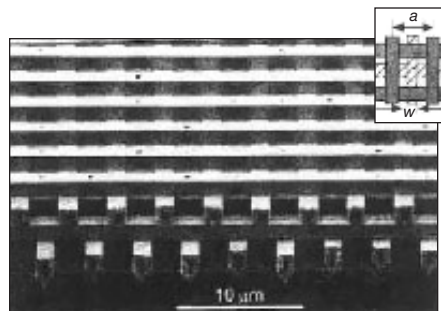


Figure. Scanning electron microscopy image of a three-dimensional tungsten crystal (W-3D); (inset) schematic illustration of the layered structure.

Optical measurements and computational estimates of the W-3D crystals were then carried out with reflectance and transmission Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy in the 1.5–25- μ m region. Reflectance measurements revealed oscillations at $\lambda < 5.5$ μ m, with a sharp rise beginning at 6 μ m that peaked with a 90% reflectance when $\lambda > 8$ μ m. Transmission measurements agreed with these values, with oscillation peaks close to $\lambda < 5.5$ μ m, a sharp decrease at 6 μ m that revealed less than 1% transmission for $\lambda > 8$ μ m. From this, the band edge was calculated to be ~ 6 μ m. Large attenuation values of ~ 30 dB at $\lambda > 10$ μ m for a four-layer system were also observed. Comparisons of the optical properties of multilayer structures with those of a thin tungsten film demonstrate the effects of the photonic bandgap. Even though the photonic-bandgap structures are relatively opaque in the spectral region above 6 μ m, all have large values of transmission in the spectral region below 6 μ m, whereas the thin film is opaque across the entire spectral region characterized.

This data was also compared with transfer-matrix calculations. Here, the experimental and theoretical calculations were in agreement, with slight variations in transmission and reflectance maxima and peak widths. The researchers believe

one reason for the difference may come from the "keyholes" in each photonic tungsten rod. Because each rod is hollow to a small extent, scattering may have a significant impact. Furthermore, the bandgap attenuation was separated from typical metallic attenuation by the use of multilayer crystals (multiple layers of the four-layer unit). Peak amplitude and spectral position were demonstrated to be a function of W-3D thickness, not metallic depth. To further probe the metallic photonic bandgap, tilt-angle transmission measurements were performed. In photonic fashion, the strong reflectance at >10 μ m was shown to be stable at angles ranging from 10° to -60°. Finite-difference time-domain calculations were also performed to better understand potential energy interactions at the W-3D surface.

The researchers believe that a wide reflectance window (8–20 μ m) may prove useful in many applications, including incandescent lamps and other thermal photovoltaic devices.

MATHEW M. MAYE

Shape-Memory Polymer System Developed for Medical Applications

One of the challenges in the area of biomaterials is the medical application of materials that possess shape-memory properties induced thermally, including polymers, hydrogels, metallic alloys, and ceramics. For example, the nickel titanium alloy Nitinol has been used in orthodontic self-adjusting wires, flexible eyeglass frames, and pliant guidewires and tools for "bloodless" surgery. The preparation of the metal alloy, however, is a time-consuming procedure involving heat treatment at elevated temperatures. In addition, the maximum deformation of the alloys is limited, the materials are expensive, they are not biodegradable, and many are not mechanically biocompatible. Making advancements in minimally invasive surgical procedures, Andreas Lendlein from the Institute for Technical and Macromolecular Chemistry, Germany, and Robert Langer from the Department of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology have introduced degradable thermoplastic polymers that can change their shape quickly at milder temperatures than other known shape-memory materials. Compared to known shape-memory alloys, these polymers are much more deformable and less expensive to produce.

As reported in the May 31 issue of *Science*, the linear phase-segregated multi-block copolymers were chosen as the

structural concept for the polymer system because of their tailoring properties. Oligo(ϵ -caprolactone)diol (OCL), which is responsible for switching segments that determine both the temporary and permanent shape of the polymer, initiated a ring-opening polymerization of cyclic diesters or lactones to make macrodiols first, then two macrodiols were coupled with 2,2(4),4-trimethylhexanediisocyanate to form the multi-block copolymers. The crystallizable oligo(*p*-dioxanone)diol (ODX) was the hard segment in the polymer network. By varying the ratio of OCL and ODX, the cross-link density of the polymer can be adjusted. Thus, the mechanical strength and transition temperature of the polymers can be tailored over a wide range, which offered the materials "excellent" shape-memory properties. A series of tests confirmed that the materials can be programmed into permanent and temporary shapes in seconds with up to 400% deformation, while the maximum deformation for Nitinol is just 8%; the new materials can be adjusted at a lower transition temperature than metal alloys; and the introduced hydrolyzable ester bonds in the polymers will break under physio-

logical conditions, which provides an additional advantage (biodegradability) over Nitinol.

The researchers said that the shape-memory capability of the polymer materials enables bulky implants to be placed in the body through small incisions. These materials can also perform complex mechanical deformations automatically. Another possible application, the researchers said, is the design of a smart surgical suture that allows an optimized tightening process of the knot.

YUE HU

Abrasive Jet Machining of Brittle Ceramics Yields Smoother Surfaces than Conventional Finishing Methods

The most commonly used technique for surface finishing of ceramic components is grinding by a diamond wheel. However, this method is not ideal for brittle ceramics such as alumina and silicon carbide. A group of researchers at the Fine Ceramics Research Association and the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology, Nagoya, have found that the use of abrasive jet machining (AJM) on alumina samples resulted in

a much smoother surface and a significant improvement in flexural strength as compared with the same samples processed by conventional methods. AJM is a specialized form of shot blasting, featuring the use of fine, hard, abrasive particles projected at an extremely high velocity.

As described in the May issue of the *Journal of the American Ceramics Society*, Manabu Wakuda of the Association and co-workers prepared three sets of samples of the same dimensions by machining the alumina ceramic. One set was ground with a diamond wheel. Another set was subsequently finished by lapping with diamond pastes after grinding. The third set was finished by the AJM process, which uses a pressurized nitrogen stream containing silicon carbide particles in the 15–25- μ m range.

After the processes, the researchers evaluated material removal behavior, mechanical properties, and residual stresses at the machined surface of these samples. The surface of the ground sample appeared relatively rough, with grains exposed. The surface following AJM displayed a much smoother topography, without revealing individual grains. This indicates that the material removal in grinding was domi-

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