BIOINSPIRED LAMINATED COMPOSITE CERAMIC STRUCTURES

Behnam Ashrafi, Ph.D., M.Eng.

H. Yazdani, C. Beausoleil, D. Backman, M. Genest Novel Materials and Coating Aerospace Manufacturing Technology Center Aerospace Research Center

July 30, 2023



Outline

- > Introduction
 - Ceramic Materials
 - Bio-inspired Approach
- Manufacturing Approaches
 - Laser-based architected ceramics
- Design and manufacturing
- Conclusion







DIC image: crack propagation in architectured ceramics

Ceramic Materials and Structures



Advantages of Ceramics

- ✓ High thermal stability
- \checkmark High chemical resistance
- ✓ Relatively low density
- ✓ High stiffness
- ✓ High compressive strength

Main Disadvantage of Ceramics

Brittleness

✓ Armour

 \checkmark

Dentistry

✓ Cutting tools



Applications

- ✓ Engines
- ✓ Thermal protection systems
- Electronics (insulators, heat sinks)









Why Architected Ceramics?

- Stiffness/strength and toughness are mutually exclusive in traditional engineering materials
- Biological materials use architecture and possess interesting combinations of properties





- ✓ Designed architectures
- ✓ Weak interfaces

Plain ceramic architectured ceramic erchitectured ceramic

Tooth enamel

Deformation

Energy absorbed

Glass sponge skeleton



Automated and Engineered Net Shaping of Ceramics

Goal: Develop industrially scalable fabrication laser technique

Why: Ceramics have different applications such as heat shield systems for space vehicles, rocket propulsion components, and gas turbines. However, one of the main challenges with ceramic processing is the machinability of ceramics for producing complex parts. Unlike metals, ceramics are not able to maintain strength with traditional subtractive manufacturing techniques as the machined cuts are not damage-free.

Outcome: Developing a laser material removal system will allow the design of different advanced engineering applications and represent an effective and efficient manufacturing tool that can be incorporated in engineered net shaping systems.

I. Esmail, et al., Optics & Laser Technology 2021. C. Beausoleil, et al., Ceramics International 2020.



defect free and precise

microscopy images of laser machining of ceramic hexagonal design using picosecond fiber laser





Angle cut: tunable and defect free

Bioinspired cut: precise and programmable

Bio-inspired Multi-layer Architectured Ceramic Composites with Multi-hit Capabilities

Goal: Develop a high-toughness high-strength ceramics for ambient and high-temperature applications

Why: Ceramics suffer from low tensile strength and brittle fracture behavior, which limit their range of applications where high toughness is required.

How: Nature's inspiring motifs and unique design concepts can open new avenues to solve ceramics' brittleness. Many biological materials such as mollusk shells, and teeth are comprised of hard and stiff yet brittle building blocks bonded by tougher and weaker interfaces.

Outcome: Improving multi-hit capability of bio-inspired ceramics; extending design space of ceramics by tuning architectures using NRC subtractive manufacturing capabilities. The developed techniques could be applied to personnel armor systems and vehicles. H. Yazdani, et al., Extreme Mechanics Letters 2020.



Partially vs. Fully Cut Architectures – Energy Absorption





Stochastic Designs of Architected Ceramics



Suture Ceramics for Flexible Ceramics



Experimental Mechanics: Digital Image Correlation (DIC)





To capture the failure initiation and propagation during the loading
The deformation is spread in the architectured ceramics unlike the plain ceramic



Concluding Remarks

- ✓ Bio-inspiration: an approach to overcome brittleness of ceramics
- Deep, high precision subtractive manufacturing of industrial ceramics: a necessary step towards fabrication of toughened ceramics
- A combination of finite element analysis and experimental approaches: a cost effective/quick solution to identify optimal designs for a target application
- ✓ Fabrication of single-layer and multi-layer architected ceramics based on subtractive manufacturing



Demonstration of Multi-hit Capability



 $\delta = 0.1$ $\delta = 0.8$ Stochastic multilayered ceramics **NRC**·CNRC

Acknowledgment

NRC.CANADA.CA

NRC-ARC H. Yazdani J. Barroeta **D.** Backman J. Gholipour M. Genest E. Poirier

NRC Postdoc

A. Rahimizadeh H. Ravanbakhsh S. Taheri A. Sohrabi

Coop students

A. Sunesara B. J. Crodua C. Beausoleil Z. Cats I. Mandsurwala P. Keum

E. Fatehi (MSc.) E. Kiyani (Ph.D.) E. Azad (Ph.D.)

M. Mirkhalaf

NRC-SDT

M. Jakubinek C. Paquet T. Lacelle

NRC-EME E. Fatehi **D.** Aranguren A. Johnston

Behnam Ashrafi

Senior Research Officer AMTC, Montreal, QC Behnam.Ashrafi@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca

🐯 McGi

McGill University F. Barthelat (Mechanical Eng.) A.H. Akbarzadeh (Bioresource Eng.) L. Lessard (Mechanical Eng.)



