

## Models of Toughening of Ceramic/Graphene Composites: a Brief Review

A.G. Sheinerman

Institute of Problems of Mechanical Engineering, Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg 199178, Russia

Received: May 20, 2023

Corresponding author: [A.G. Sheinerman](mailto:A.G.Sheinerman@ipme.ru)

**Abstract.** We briefly review the analytical models that describe toughening and fracture toughness reduction in ceramic/graphene composites. We consider such mechanisms of toughening as crack deflection and crack bridging. We examine the effect of pores and fracture along ceramic/graphene interfaces on the fracture toughness reduction at a high graphene volume fraction. The effect of grain boundary sliding on the fracture toughness of ceramic/graphene composites is also considered.

**Citation:** Rev. Adv. Mater. Technol., 2023, vol. 5, no. 2, pp. 1–9

**View online:** <https://doi.org/10.17586/2687-0568-2023-5-2-1-9>

**View Table of Contents:** <https://reviewsamt.com/issues>

### REFERENCES

- [1] Y. Cheng, Y. Zhang, T. Wan, Z. Yin, J. Wang, *Mechanical properties and toughening mechanisms of graphene platelets reinforced Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/TiC composite ceramic tool materials by microwave sintering*, Mater. Sci. Eng. A, 2017, vol. 680, pp. 190–196.
- [2] P.C. Milak, F.D. Minatto, A. De Noni Jr., O.R.K. Montedo, *Wear performance of alumina-based ceramics - a review of the influence of microstructure on erosive wear*, Cerâmica, 2015, vol. 61, pp. 88–103.
- [3] X. Wang, J. Zhao, E. Cui, S. Song, H. Liu, W. Song, *Microstructure, mechanical properties and toughening mechanisms of graphene reinforced Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-WC-TiC composite ceramic tool material*, Ceram. Int., 2019, vol. 45, no. 8, pp. 10321–10329.
- [4] F. Chen, K. Yan, X. Zhang, Y. Zhu, J. Hong, *Microscale simulation method for prediction of mechanical properties and composition design of multilayer graphene-reinforced ceramic bearings*, Ceram. Int., 2021, vol. 47, no. 12, pp. 17531–17539.
- [5] W. Kim, H.S. Oh, I.J. Shon, *The effects of graphene reinforcement on the mechanical properties of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> ceramics rapidly sintered by high-frequency induction heating*, Int. J. Refract. Metals Hard Mater., 2015, vol. 48, pp. 376–381.
- [6] H. Porwal, S. Grasso, M.J. Reece, *Review of graphene–ceramic matrix composites*, Adv. Appl. Cer., 2013, vol. 112, no. 8, pp. 443–454.

- [7] A. Centeno, V.G. Rocha, B. Alonso, A. Fernandez, C.F. Gutierrez-Gonzalez, R. Torrecillas, A. Zurutuza, *Graphene for tough and electroconductive alumina ceramics*, J. Eur. Ceram. Soc., 2013, vol. 33, no. 15–16, pp. 3201–3210.
- [8] A. Nieto, A. Bisht, D. Lahiri, C. Zhang, A. Agarwal, *Graphene reinforced metal and ceramic matrix composites: a review*, Int. Mater. Rev., 2017, vol. 62, no. 5, pp. 241–302.
- [9] P. Miranzo, M. Belmonte, M.I. Osendi, *From bulk to cellular structures: A review on ceramic/graphene filler composites*, J. Eur. Ceram. Soc., 2017, vol. 37, no. 12, pp. 3649–3672.
- [10] I.A. Ovid'ko, *Micromechanics of fracturing in nanoceramics*, Philos. Trans. R. Soc. A, 2015, vol. 373, no. 2038, art. no. 20140129.
- [11] A.G. Glukharev, V.G. Konakov, *Synthesis and properties of zirconia-graphene composite ceramics: a brief review*, Rev. Adv. Mater. Sci., 2018, vol. 56, no. 1, pp. 124–138.
- [12] Q. Wang, C. Ramirez, C.S. Watts, O. Borrero-López, A.L. Ortiz, B.W. Sheldon, N.P. Padture, *Fracture, fatigue, and sliding-wear behavior of nanocomposites of alumina and reduced graphene-oxide*, Acta Mater., 2020, vol. 186, pp. 29–39.
- [13] C. Sun, Y. Huang, Q. Shen, W. Wang, W. Pan, P. Zong, L. Yang, Y. Xing, C. Wan, *Embedding two-dimensional graphene array in ceramic matrix*, Sci. Adv., 2020, vol. 6, no. 39, art. no. eabb1338.
- [14] L.S. Walker, V.R. Marroto, M.A. Rafiee, N. Koratkar, E.L. Corral, *Toughening in graphene ceramic composites*, ACS Nano, 2011, vol. 5, no. 4, pp. 3182–3190.
- [15] O. Tapasztó, L. Tapasztó, M. Markó, F. Kern, R. Gadow, C. Balázs, *Dispersion patterns of graphene and carbon nanotubes in ceramic matrix composites*, Chem. Phys. Lett., 2011, vol. 511, no. 4–6, pp. 340–343.
- [16] K. Wang, Y. Wang, Z. Fan, J. Yan, T. Wei, *Preparation of graphene nanosheet/alumina composites by spark plasma sintering*, Mater. Res. Bull., 2011, vol. 46, pp. 315–318.
- [17] L. Kvetková, A. Duszová, P. Hvizdoš, J. Dusza, P. Kun, C. Balázs, *Fracture toughness and toughening mechanisms in graphene platelet reinforced Si<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> composites*, Scr. Mater., 2012, vol. 66, no. 10, pp. 793–796.
- [18] J. Liu, H. Yan, J. Reece, K. Jiang, *Toughening of zirconia/alumina composites by the addition of graphene platelets*, J. Eur. Ceram. Soc., 2012, vol. 32, no. 16, pp. 4185–4193.
- [19] A. Nieto, D. Lahiri, A. Agarwal, *Graphene nanoplatelets reinforced tantalum carbide consolidated by spark plasma sintering*, Mater. Sci. Eng. A, 2013, vol. 582, pp. 338–346.
- [20] H. Porwal, P. Tatarko, S. Grasso, J. Khaliq, I. Dlouhý, M.J. Reece, *Graphene reinforced alumina nano-composites*, Carbon, 2013, vol. 64, pp. 359–369.
- [21] I.A. Ovid'ko, A.G. Sheinerman, *Toughening due to crack deflection in ceramic- and metal-graphene nanocomposites*, Rev. Adv. Mater. Sci., 2015, vol. 43, no. 1/2, pp. 52–60.
- [22] K. Chu, C. Jia, *Enhanced strength in bulk graphene-copper composites*, Phys. Status Solidi A, 2014, vol. 211, no. 1, pp. 184–190.
- [23] T. He, J. Li, L. Wang, J. Zhu, W. Jiang, *Preparation and consolidation of alumina/graphene composite powders*, Mater. Trans., 2009, vol. 50, no. 4, pp. 749–751.
- [24] J. Lui, H. Yan, K. Jiang, *Mechanical properties of graphene platelet-reinforced alumina ceramic composites*, Ceram. Int., 2013, vol. 39, no. 5, pp. 6215–6221.
- [25] S.V. Bobylev, A.G. Sheinerman, *Effect of crack bridging on the toughening of ceramic/graphene composites*, Rev. Adv. Mater. Sci., 2018, vol. 57, no. 1, pp. 54–62.
- [26] Y. Shao, H.-P. Zhao, X.-Q. Feng, H. Gao, *Discontinuous crack-bridging model for fracture toughness analysis of nacre*, J. Mech. Phys. Solids, 2012, vol. 60, no. 8, pp. 1400–1419.
- [27] C. Ramirez, M.I. Osendi, *Toughening in ceramics containing graphene fillers*, Ceram. Int., 2014, vol. 40, no. 7B, pp. 11187–11192.
- [28] L. Zhang, X.G. Zhang, Y. Chen, J.N. Su, W.W. Liu, T.H. Zhang, Y.T. Wang, *Interfacial stress transfer in a graphene nanosheet toughened hydroxyapatite composite*, Appl. Phys. Lett., 2014, vol. 105, no. 16, art. no. 161908.
- [29] Y.C. Wang, Y.B. Zhu, Z.Z. He, H.A. Wu, *Multiscale investigations into the fracture toughness of SiC/graphene composites: Atomistic simulations and crack-bridging model*, Ceram. Int., 2020, vol. 46, no. 18A, pp. 29101–29110.
- [30] A.G. Sheinerman, *Modeling of fracture toughness enhancement and reduction in fully dense ceramic/graphene composites*, Eur. J. Mech. A, 2023, vol. 98, art. no. 104891.
- [31] H. Porwal, R. Sagar, P. Tatarko, S. Grasso, T. Saunders, I. Dlouhý, M.J. Reece, *Effect of lateral size of graphene nano-sheets on the mechanical properties and machinability of alumina nano-composites*, Ceram. Int., 2016, vol. 42, no. 6, pp. 7533–7542.
- [32] A.G. Sheinerman, N.F. Morozov, M.Yu. Gutkin, *Effect of grain boundary sliding on fracture toughness of ceramic/graphene composites*, Mech. Mater., 2019, vol. 137, art. no. 103126.
- [33] D. Farkas, H. Van Swygenhoven, P.M. Derlet, *Intergranular fracture in nanocrystalline metals*, Phys. Rev. B, 2002, vol. 66, no. 6, art. 060101(R).
- [34] H. Van Swygenhoven, P.M. Derlet, A. Hasnaoui, M. Samaras, *Impact of grain boundaries on structural and mechanical properties*, in: Nanostructures: synthesis, functional properties and

- applications*, ed. by T. Tsakalakos, I.A. Ovid'ko, A.K. Vasudevan, Springer, Dordrecht, 2003, pp. 155–167.
- [35] A. Latapie, D. Farkas, *Molecular dynamics investigation of the fracture behavior of nanocrystalline  $\alpha$ -Fe*, Phys. Rev. B, 2004, vol. 69, no. 13, art. no. 134110.
- [36] E. Hosseinian, S. Gupta, O.N. Pierron, M. Legros, *Size effects on intergranular crack growth mechanisms in ultrathin nanocrystalline gold free-standing films*, Acta Mater., 2018, vol. 143, pp. 77–87.
- [37] K. Markadan, J.K. Chin, M.T.T. Tan, *Recent progress in graphene based ceramic composites: a review*, J. Mater. Res., 2017, vol. 32, no. 1, pp. 84–106.
- [38] K.I. Vishnu Vandana, K.N.S. Suman, *Hardness and fracture toughness of ceramic composite using experimental and analytical methods*, Int. J. Eng. Adv. Technol., 2019, vol. 9, no. 2, pp. 5250–5254.
- [39] C. Ramirez, P. Miranzo, M. Belmonte, M.I. Osendi, P. Poza, S.M. Vega-Diaz, M. Terronez, *Extraordinary toughening enhancement and flexural strength in  $\text{Si}_3\text{N}_4$  composites using graphene sheets*, J. Eur. Ceram. Soc., 2014, vol. 34, no. 2, pp. 161–169.
- [40] A.G. Sheinerman, S.A. Krasnitskii, *Modeling of the influence of graphene agglomeration on the mechanical properties of ceramic composites with graphene*, Tech. Phys. Lett., 2021, vol. 47, no. 12, pp. 873–876.
- [41] M. Liu, C. Chen, *A micromechanical analysis of the fracture properties of saturated porous media*, Int. J. Solids Struct., 2015, vol. 63, pp. 32–38.
- [42] E. Bódis, I. Cora, C. Balázs, P. Németh, Z. Károly, S. Klébert, P. Fazekas, A.M. Keszler, J. Szépvölgyi, *Spark plasma sintering of graphene reinforced silicon carbide ceramics*, Ceram. Int., 2017, vol. 43, no. 12, pp. 9005–9011.