

*TRIBOLOGY OF  
CERAMICS AND  
COMPOSITES*

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# *TRIBOLOGY OF CERAMICS AND COMPOSITES*

A Materials Science Perspective

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*Bikramjit Basu dedicates this book  
with a great sense of gratitude  
to his parents,  
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*Mitjan Kalin would like to dedicate this book  
to Matija, his inspiration, pride, and happiness;  
and to Janja, for her understanding and support*

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# CONTENTS

<i>PREFACE</i>	xvii
<i>FOREWORD BY PROF. IAN HUTCHINGS</i>	xxi
<i>FOREWORD BY PROF. KARL-HEINZ ZUM GAHR</i>	xxiii
<i>ABOUT THE AUTHORS</i>	xxv

## SECTION I FUNDAMENTALS

<b>CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>3</b>
References	6
<b>CHAPTER 2 OVERVIEW: TRIBOLOGICAL MATERIALS</b>	<b>7</b>
2.1 Introduction	7
2.2 Definition and Classification of Ceramics	8
2.3 Properties of Structural Ceramics	9
2.4 Applications of Structural Ceramics	11
2.5 Closing Remarks	14
References	16
<b>CHAPTER 3 OVERVIEW: MECHANICAL PROPERTIES OF CERAMICS</b>	<b>18</b>
3.1 Theory of Brittle Fracture	18
3.2 Cracking in Brittle Materials	23
3.3 Definition and Measurement of Basic Mechanical Properties	24
3.3.1 Hardness	24
3.3.2 Compressive Strength	27
3.3.3 Flexural Strength	28
3.3.4 Elastic Modulus	30
3.3.5 Fracture Toughness	31
3.4 Toughening Mechanisms	33
3.5 Closing Remarks	37
References	37

<b>CHAPTER 4</b>	<b><i>SURFACES AND CONTACTS</i></b>	<b>39</b>
4.1	Surface Roughness	39
4.2	Surface Topography and Asperities	41
4.3	Real Contact Area	42
4.4	Contact Load Distribution and Hertzian Stresses	44
4.5	Closing Remarks	47
	References	48
<b>CHAPTER 5</b>	<b><i>FRICTION</i></b>	<b>49</b>
5.1	Introduction	49
5.2	Laws of Friction	49
5.3	Friction Mechanisms	51
5.4	Friction of Common Engineering Materials	54
5.5	Closing Remarks	58
	References	59
<b>CHAPTER 6</b>	<b><i>FRICTIONAL HEATING AND CONTACT TEMPERATURE</i></b>	<b>60</b>
6.1	Tribological Process and Contact Temperature	60
6.2	Concept of “Bulk” and “Flash” Temperature	61
6.3	Importance and Relevance of Some Ready-to-Use Analytical Models	63
6.4	Review of Some Frequently Employed Ready-to-Use Models	64
	6.4.1 Assumptions in Various Models	65
	6.4.2 Model Descriptions and Implications	65
	6.4.2.1 Archard Model	66
	6.4.2.2 Kong–Ashby Model	67
	References	68
<b>CHAPTER 7</b>	<b><i>WEAR MECHANISMS</i></b>	<b>70</b>
7.1	Introduction	70
7.2	Classification of Wear Mechanisms	72
	7.2.1 Adhesive Wear	73
	7.2.2 Abrasive Wear	75
	7.2.2.1 Abrasion of Composites	77
	7.2.3 Fatigue Wear	78
	7.2.4 Oxidation and Tribochemical Wear	80
	7.2.5 Fretting Wear	81
	7.2.5.1 Fretting Modes	82
	7.2.5.2 Mechanics of Elastic Contacts under Fretting Conditions	84
	7.2.5.3 Mechanics of Elastic–Plastic Contacts under Fretting Conditions	86
	7.2.5.4 Fretting Regimes	86
	7.2.5.5 Determination of Fretting Regimes	89
	7.2.5.6 Fretting Maps	89
	7.2.5.7 Velocity Accommodation in Fretting	91
	7.2.5.8 Friction Logs	92
	7.2.6 Solid Particle Erosion	92
	7.2.6.1 Erosion of Ductile Materials	94
	7.2.6.2 Erosion of Brittle Materials	96

7.3	Closing Remarks	98
	References	99

---

**CHAPTER 8 LUBRICATION** **101**

8.1	Lubrication Regimes	101
8.2	Stribeck Curve	107
	References	109

**SECTION II FRICTION AND WEAR OF STRUCTURAL CERAMICS**

---

**CHAPTER 9 OVERVIEW: STRUCTURAL CERAMICS** **113**

9.1	Introduction	113
9.2	Zirconia Crystal Structures and Transformation Characteristics of Tetragonal Zirconia	114
9.3	Transformation Toughening	116
	9.3.1 Micromechanical Modeling	116
9.4	Stabilization of Tetragonal Zirconia	117
9.5	Different Factors Influencing Transformation Toughening	118
	9.5.1 Grain Size	119
	9.5.2 Yttria Content	121
	9.5.3 Yttria Distribution	122
9.6	Stress-Induced Microcracking	125
9.7	Development of SiAlON Ceramics	126
9.8	Microstructure of S-sialon Ceramics	127
9.9	Mechanical Properties and Crack Bridging of SiAlON Ceramic	129
9.10	Properties of Titanium Diboride Ceramics	132
	References	138

---

**CHAPTER 10 CASE STUDY: TRANSFORMATION-TOUGHENED ZIRCONIA** **142**

10.1	Background	142
10.2	Wear Resistance	144
10.3	Morphological Characterization of the Worn Surfaces	146
10.4	Zirconia Phase Transformation and Wear Behavior	149
10.5	Wear Mechanisms	152
10.6	Relationship among Microstructure, Toughness, and Wear	154
10.7	Influence of Humidity on Tribological Properties of Self-Mated Zirconia	156
10.8	Wear Mechanisms in Different Humidity	157
10.9	Tribochemical Wear in High Humidity	160
10.10	Closing Remarks	163
	References	164

---

**CHAPTER 11 CASE STUDY: SIALON CERAMICS** **167**

11.1	Introduction	167
11.2	Materials and Experiments	168
11.3	Tribological Properties of Compositionally Tailored Sialon versus $\beta$ -Sialon	172
11.4	Tribological Properties of S-Sialon Ceramic	179

## X CONTENTS

- 11.5 Concluding Remarks 182
- References 183

---

### CHAPTER 12 CASE STUDY: MAX PHASE-Ti<sub>3</sub>SiC<sub>2</sub> 185

- 12.1 Background 185
- 12.2 Frictional Behavior 188
- 12.3 Wear Resistance and Wear Mechanisms 188
- 12.4 Raman Spectroscopy and Atomic Force Microscopy Analysis 190
- 12.5 Transition in Wear Mechanisms 193
- 12.6 Summary 194
- References 195

---

### CHAPTER 13 CASE STUDY: TITANIUM DIBORIDE CERAMICS AND COMPOSITES 197

- 13.1 Introduction 197
- 13.2 Materials and Experiments 198
- 13.3 Tribological Properties of TiB<sub>2</sub>-MoSi<sub>2</sub> Ceramics 200
  - 13.3.1 Friction and Wear 200
  - 13.3.2 Wear and Dissipated Energy 202
  - 13.3.3 Wear and Abrasion Parameter 203
  - 13.3.4 Material Removal Mechanisms 204
- 13.4 Tribological Properties of TiB<sub>2</sub>-TiSi<sub>2</sub> Ceramics 204
- 13.5 Closing Remarks 206
- References 208

## SECTION III FRICTION AND WEAR OF BIOCERAMICS AND BIOCOSITES

---

### CHAPTER 14 OVERVIEW: BIOCERAMICS AND BIOCOSITES 213

- 14.1 Introduction 213
- 14.2 Some Useful Definitions and Their Implications 215
  - 14.2.1 Biomaterials 215
  - 14.2.2 Biocompatibility 216
  - 14.2.3 Host Response 216
- 14.3 Experimental Evaluation of Biocompatibility 217
- 14.4 Wear of Implants 221
- 14.5 Coating on Metals 223
- 14.6 Glass-Ceramics 224
- 14.7 Biocompatible Ceramics 226
  - 14.7.1 Bioinert Ceramics 226
  - 14.7.2 Calcium Phosphate-Based Biomaterials 226
- 14.8 Outlook 228
- References 229

---

### CHAPTER 15 CASE STUDY: POLYMER-CERAMIC BIOCOSITES 233

- 15.1 Introduction 233
- 15.2 Materials and Experiments 235



15.3	Frictional Behavior	237
15.4	Wear-Resistance Properties	240
15.5	Wear Mechanisms	242
15.6	Correlation among Wear Resistance, Wear Mechanisms, Material Properties, and Contact Pressure	247
15.7	Concluding Remarks	248
	References	249

**CHAPTER 16** *CASE STUDY: NATURAL TOOTH AND DENTAL RESTORATIVE MATERIALS*

251

---

16.1	Introduction	251
16.2	Materials and Methods	254
	16.2.1 Preparation of Human Tooth Material	254
16.3	Tribological Tests on Tooth Material	255
16.4	Production and Characterization of Glass-Ceramics	255
16.5	Wear Experiments on Glass-Ceramics	256
16.6	Microstructure and Hardness of Human Tooth Material	257
16.7	Tribological Properties of Human Tooth Material	260
	16.7.1 Friction Behavior	260
	16.7.2 Wear Mechanisms	262
16.8	Wear Properties of Glass-Ceramics	262
16.9	Discussion of Wear Mechanisms of Glass-Ceramics	266
16.10	Comparison with Existing Glass-Ceramic Materials	271
16.11	Concluding Remarks	273
	References	274

**CHAPTER 17** *CASE STUDY: GLASS-INFILTRATED ALUMINA*

276

---

17.1	Introduction	276
17.2	Materials and Experiments	277
17.3	Frictional Properties	278
17.4	Wear Resistance and Wear Mechanisms	278
17.5	Wear Debris Analysis and Tribochemical Reactions	282
17.6	Influence of Glass Infiltration on Wear Properties	283
17.7	Concluding Remarks	284
	References	285

**CHAPTER 18** *TRIBOLOGICAL PROPERTIES OF CERAMIC BIOCOSITES*

287

---

18.1	Background	287
18.2	Tribological Properties of Mullite-Reinforced Hydroxyapatite	288
18.3	Friction and Wear Rate	288
	18.3.1 Effect of Simulated-Body-Fluid Medium on Wear of Mullite-Reinforced Hydroxyapatite	289
	18.3.2 Surface Topography of Mullite-Reinforced Hydroxyapatite after Fretting Wear	293
	18.3.3 Frictional Behavior	293
	18.3.4 Wear Micromechanisms of Hydroxyapatite-Based Materials in Simulated Body Fluid	296

**xii CONTENTS**

18.4 Concluding Remarks 298  
References 302

**SECTION IV FRICTION AND WEAR OF NANOCERAMICS**

**CHAPTER 19 OVERVIEW: NANOCERAMIC COMPOSITES 307**

19.1 Introduction 307  
19.2 Processing of Bulk Nanocrystalline Ceramics 309  
19.3 Overview of Developed Nanoceramics and Ceramic Nanocomposites 309  
19.3.1 Monolithic Nanoceramics 311  
19.3.2 Alumina-Based Nanocomposites 313  
19.3.3 Tungsten Carbide-Based Nanocomposites 314  
19.3.4 Zirconia-Based Nanocomposites 317  
19.4 Overview of Tribological Properties of Ceramic Nanocomposites 318  
19.5 Concluding Remarks 320  
References 322

**CHAPTER 20 CASE STUDY: NANOCRYSTALLINE YTTRIA-STABILIZED TETRAGONAL ZIRCONIA POLYCRYSTALLINE CERAMICS 325**

20.1 Introduction 325  
20.2 Materials and Experiments 327  
20.3 Tribological Properties 329  
20.4 Tribomechanical Wear of Yttria-Stabilized Zirconia Nanoceramic with Varying Yttria Dopant 330  
20.5 Comparison with Other Stabilized Zirconia Ceramics 335  
20.6 Concluding Remarks 335  
References 336

**CHAPTER 21 CASE STUDY: NANOSTRUCTURED TUNGSTEN CARBIDE-ZIRCONIA NANOCOMPOSITES 338**

21.1 Introduction 338  
21.2 Materials and Experiments 339  
21.3 Friction and Wear Characteristics 340  
21.4 Wear Mechanisms 345  
21.5 Explanation of High Wear Resistance of Ceramic Nanocomposites 347  
21.6 Concluding Remarks 349  
References 349

**SECTION V LIGHTWEIGHT COMPOSITES AND CERMETS**

**CHAPTER 22 OVERVIEW: LIGHTWEIGHT METAL MATRIX COMPOSITES AND CERMETS 353**

22.1 Development of Metal Matrix Composites 353  
22.2 Development of Cermets 356  
References 358

**CHAPTER 23 CASE STUDY: MAGNESIUM-SILICON CARBIDE PARTICULATE-REINFORCED COMPOSITES** **362**

- 
- 23.1 Introduction **362**
  - 23.2 Materials and Experiments **363**
  - 23.3 Load-Dependent Friction and Wear Properties **363**
  - 23.4 Fretting-Duration-Dependent Tribological Properties **366**
  - 23.5 Tribochemical Wear of Magnesium–Silicon Carbide Particulate-Reinforced Composites **371**
  - 23.6 Concluding Remarks **375**  
References **376**

**CHAPTER 24 CASE STUDY: TITANIUM CARBONITRIDE-NICKEL-BASED CERMETS** **377**

- 
- 24.1 Introduction **377**
  - 24.2 Materials and Experiments **379**
  - 24.3 Energy Dissipation and Abrasion at Low Load **381**
  - 24.4 Influence of Type of Secondary Carbides on Sliding Wear of Titanium Carbonitride–Nickel Cermets **386**
    - 24.4.1 Wear Mechanisms **387**
  - 24.5 Tribochemical Wear of Titanium Carbonitride–Based Cermets **387**
    - 24.5.1 Evolution of Tribochemistry and Contact Temperature **387**
  - 24.6 Influence of Tungsten Carbide Content on Load-Dependent Sliding Wear Properties **393**
  - 24.7 High Temperature Wear of Titanium Carbonitride–Nickel Cermets **397**
    - 24.7.1 Wear Mechanisms **398**
    - 24.7.2 Discussion of High-Temperature Oxidation and Its Relation to Material Removal **401**
    - 24.7.3 Thermal Oxidation **402**
    - 24.7.4 Influence of Different Secondary Carbide Addition **403**
  - 24.8 Summary of Key Results **403**  
References **404**

**CHAPTER 25 CASE STUDY: (W,Ti)C-CO CERMETS** **407**

- 
- 25.1 Introduction **407**
  - 25.2 Materials and Experiments **408**
  - 25.3 Microstructure and Mechanical Properties **409**
  - 25.4 Wear Properties **410**
  - 25.5 Correlation between Mechanical Properties and Wear Resistance **413**
  - 25.6 Concluding Remarks **418**  
References **419**

**SECTION VI FRICTION AND WEAR OF CERAMICS IN A CRYOGENIC ENVIRONMENT****CHAPTER 26 OVERVIEW: CRYOGENIC WEAR PROPERTIES OF MATERIALS** **423**

- 
- 26.1 Background **423**
  - 26.2 Designing a High-Speed Cryogenic Wear Tester **425**

## **xiv** CONTENTS

- 26.3 Summary of Results Obtained with Ductile Metals 427
  - 26.3.1 Self-Mated Steel 427
  - 26.3.2 Titanium/Steel Couple 430
  - 26.3.3 Copper/Steel Sliding System 433
- 26.4 Summary 437
  - References 437

---

### **CHAPTER 27** CASE STUDY: SLIDING WEAR OF ALUMINA IN A CRYOGENIC ENVIRONMENT

439

- 
- 27.1 Background 439
  - 27.2 Materials and Experiments 440
  - 27.3 Tribological Properties of Self-Mated Alumina 442
  - 27.4 Genesis of Tribological Behavior in a Cryogenic Environment 449
    - 27.4.1 Friction of Self-Mated Alumina in LN2 449
    - 27.4.2 Brittle Fracture and Wear of Self-Mated Alumina in LN2 450
  - 27.5 Concluding Remarks 452
    - References 452

---

### **CHAPTER 28** CASE STUDY: SLIDING WEAR OF SELF-MATED TETRAGONAL ZIRCONIA CERAMICS IN LIQUID NITROGEN

454

- 
- 28.1 Introduction 454
  - 28.2 Materials and Experiments 456
  - 28.3 Friction of Self-Mated Y-TZP Material in LN2 456
  - 28.4 Cryogenic Wear of Zirconia 459
  - 28.5 Cryogenic Sliding-Induced Zirconia Phase Transformation 460
  - 28.6 Wear Mechanisms of Zirconia in LN2 464
  - 28.7 Concluding Remarks 466
    - References 467

---

### **CHAPTER 29** CASE STUDY: SLIDING WEAR OF SILICON CARBIDE IN A CRYOGENIC ENVIRONMENT

469

- 
- 29.1 Introduction 469
  - 29.2 Materials and Experiments 470
  - 29.3 Friction and Wear Properties 470
  - 29.4 Thermal Aspect and Limited Tribochemical Wear 473
  - 29.5 Tribomechanical Stress-Assisted Deformation and Damage 479
  - 29.6 Comparison with Sliding Wear Properties of Oxide Ceramics 481
  - 29.7 Concluding Remarks 482
    - References 483

## **SECTION VII** WATER-LUBRICATED WEAR OF CERAMICS

---

### **CHAPTER 30** FRICTION AND WEAR OF OXIDE CERAMICS IN AN AQUEOUS ENVIRONMENT

487

- 
- 30.1 Background 487
  - 30.2 Tribological Behavior of Alumina in an Aqueous Solution 488

30.2.1	Electrochemical Properties and Wear Characterization of Self-Mated Alumina	<b>491</b>
30.2.2	Surface Roughness and Frictional Behavior	<b>492</b>
30.3	Tribological Behavior of Self-Mated Zirconia in an Aqueous Environment	<b>493</b>
30.3.1	Zirconia Transformation and Wear	<b>497</b>
30.3.2	Electrochemical Aspect of Wear	<b>498</b>
30.4	Concluding Remarks	<b>499</b>
	References	<b>500</b>

## **SECTION VIII** *CLOSURE*

<b>CHAPTER 31</b>	<i>PERSPECTIVE FOR DESIGNING MATERIALS FOR TRIBOLOGICAL APPLICATIONS</i>	<b>505</b>
<hr/>		
<i>INDEX</i>		<b>509</b>

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# *PREFACE*

Tribology, by definition, is the science and technology of interacting surfaces in relative motion. Such scientific understanding has significant technological relevance for various engineering industries. Broadly, tribology deals with the concepts of friction, wear, and lubrication. Over the last few decades, it has been widely recognized that tribology, being an interdisciplinary area, involves the interaction of concepts drawn from multiple disciplines, including mechanical engineering, materials science, physics, and chemistry. The development of new materials (bulk or coating) with better friction and wear resistance, as well as the progress in tribology research, clearly requires an improved understanding in multiple disciplines as well as the development of new design methodologies in order to obtain better properties in relation to tribological performance. Even though tribology is still not broadly known as a research field to many in industry or academia, we are all intrigued by the topic in everyday life, as well as in almost every engineering application. Across the world, very few universities teach this subject; however, the subject is gaining importance. There are many books on tribology written from different perspectives, such as materials science, mechanics, mechanical engineering, lubrication and additives, physics, and chemistry. This book is intended to cover mostly the materials science aspects applicable to tribology science.

Researchers interested in automotive, aerospace, biomaterials, hardmetals, and related applications would look for a complete set of possible materials for those applications, as well as wear and friction mechanisms. On the other hand, people from the materials science community would look for details of mechanisms, effect of microstructure, working conditions, lubrication, environment, and so on, which again are covered here due to very broad materials selection. This book places the utmost importance on the microstructure–material-properties–tribological-properties relationship for the range of advanced materials that are covered herein. The description of the wear micromechanisms of the various materials will provide a strong background to readers on how to design and develop new tribological materials.

From the aforementioned perspective, this book is structured into various thematic sections, and each section contains a number of chapters. This book was designed to motivate students and young researchers as well as to provide experts in the area with a healthy balance of topics for teaching and academic purposes, primarily for two disciplines: materials science/metallurgy and mechanical engineering. It is expected that this book, if used as a text, would strongly benefit senior undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Section I of this book is designed to provide the readers with a background in the area of tribology and basic materials science. Characteristics of material surfaces in terms of surface roughness and various material properties are discussed, as well as the fundamentals of the friction, wear mechanism, and lubrication.

This is followed by Section II, where the tribological properties of structural ceramics, which include zirconia, sialon, ternary carbides, and high-temperature ceramics, such as borides, are discussed. This selection of materials also represents a class of technologically important and emerging ceramics. It is shown how the microstructure and mechanical properties both determine the wear resistance of these materials.

One area in which ceramics and polymers are increasingly important is biomedical applications. In Section III, the tribological properties of hydroxyapatite-based bioceramic composites are discussed first. Polymers are known for their poor wear resistance; it is shown how the development of hybrid polymer-ceramic biocomposites can lead to higher wear resistance while retaining good frictional properties of the polymer matrix. This is followed by a discussion on the wear properties of some of the stabilized zirconia ceramics. The two chapters in this section deal with the materials that are important in dental restoration.

A rather recent development in the materials world is the synthesis of nanoceramic composites. In view of this, Section IV discusses the friction and wear properties of zirconia and WC-based nanocomposites, which are processed using the advanced processing technique of spark plasma sintering. A summary of the literature on the tribological properties of various nanoceramics is also included.

In the last decade, lightweight composites have been considered for use in automotive and other applications requiring good wear resistance. Similarly, new generation cermets, based on TiCN as well as mixed carbide cermets, are also being developed as a replacement for widely used WC-Co cemented carbides. Hence, Section V demonstrates how these new-generation materials will behave at tribological contacts.

While our understanding of the dry, unlubricated tribological properties of various materials is extensive, such understanding in a cryogenic environment and under high speed sliding conditions is rather limited. In view of this, Section VI discusses the tribological properties of oxide and non-oxide ceramics in liquid nitrogen with reference to similar properties under ambient and room temperature sliding conditions.

In Section VII, the tribological properties of various ceramics in aqueous environments are discussed, with reference to regimes and pH regions and their effect on performance.

The book concludes with Section VIII, which covers the various issues to be investigated in the near future in the design and development of materials with better tribological properties. This section summarizes the information provided in the book and gives an insight into the broader knowledge of these materials and advice on how to use them in various applications.

The above-described structure of this book as well as the succession of various sections and chapters is expected to be useful in helping both students and experts pursuing the area of tribology of advanced materials to gradually build up knowledge

of the fundamentals and, subsequently, to understand the most recent advances. In particular, this book has the following major important features: (1) the fundamental science of tribology is presented, thus allowing the book to be used as a textbook for teaching, academic, or research purposes; (2) a broad range of materials is covered, such as advanced tough ceramics, high-temperature ceramics, biomaterials, and nanoceramics, to illustrate how the materials science aspect can be realized while analyzing the tribological results; and (3) the book will appeal to a large number of active researchers from various disciplines of metallurgy and materials science, ceramics, and mechanical engineering.

This book is an outcome of several years of teaching undergraduate and post-graduate courses in the area of tribology of materials, advanced ceramics, composite materials, and biomaterials, and other related fundamental courses in materials science, which were offered to students of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur, India, as well as at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. More important, the research results of many of the post-graduate students from our groups are also summarized in some chapters. B. Basu would like to specifically acknowledge some of his past and present students, B. V. Manoj Kumar, G. B. Raju, Shekhar Nath, P. Suresh Babu, Amartya Mukhopadhyay, K. Madhav Reddy, Animesh Choubey, M. Surender, S. Bajaj, N. Sinha, Tufan Kumar Guha, P. Maji, Rohit Khanna, Subhodip Bodhak, Srimanta Das Bakshi, D. Sarkar, Manisha Taneja, Ravi Kumar, A. Tewari, T. Venkateswaran, U. Raghunandan, Divya Jain, Nitish Kumar, Amit S. Sharma, Ashutosh K. Dubey, Alok Kumar, Sushma Kalmodia, Shilpee Jain, Neha Gupta, Indu Bajpai, Garima Tripathi, Prafulla K. Mallik, Anup Patel, Rajeev Kumar, and Atiar R. Molla. The dedication of these students to understanding the tribological properties of a range of ceramics and composites is reflected in the research work summarized in many of the chapters of this book. With gratitude, B. Basu appreciates the past and present research collaboration with a number of researchers and academicians, including Drs. Omer Van Der Biest, Jozef Vleugels, R. K. Bordia, G. Sundararajan, S. K. Mishra, A. K. Suri, R. Mitra, I. Manna, A. Basumallick, J. Ramkumar, B. Subramonian, Manoj Gupta, K. C. Hari Kumar, R. G. Vitchev, Hasan Mondal, Ferhat Kara, Nurcan Kalis Ackibas, P. Gilman, S. C. Korla, R. K. Dube, M. Karanjai, D. Roy, M. C. Chu, S. J. Cho, Doh-Yeon Kim, Jo Wook, and S. Kang. The encouragement and collaboration with two of his colleagues, the late Prof. R. Balasubramaniam and the late Prof. V. S. R. Murty, is also remembered. B. Basu also expresses sincere thanks to his long-term friend and mentor, Dr. Jaydeep Sarkar, for his constant encouragement during the writing of this book. B. Basu also remembers the constant inspiration of a number of colleagues and former teachers, including Profs./Drs. S. Ranganathan, K. Chattopadhyay, Sanjay K. Biswas, Ashutosh Sharma, N. K. Mukhopadhyay, Indranil Manna, D. Basu, Anoop K. Mukhopadhyay, Brian Lawn, M. V. Swain, M. Hoffman, Vikram Jayaram, Goutam Biswas, D. Mazumdar, Dipankar Banerjee, Atul Chokshi, and B. S. Murty.

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BIKRAMJIT BASU  
MITJAN KALIN

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# *FOREWORD*

Engineering ceramics form a diverse and important class of materials, with a wide range of properties and applications, from rolling bearings to dental implants, and from high-performance cutting tools to artificial hip joints. In these applications and many more, the tribological behavior of the ceramic is paramount, but the properties by which the material is specified are often “standard” and easily measured ones such as density, hardness, Young’s modulus, modulus of rupture, and perhaps fracture toughness. As we now know from extensive research, these properties are often poor predictors of tribological performance. Better understanding of the behavior of ceramics in tribological applications, and of the detailed influence of microstructural features such as porosity, phase, and grain size distributions, as well as the tribochemical processes that occur at the material’s surface, will benefit all manufacturers and users of these materials and will enable their properties and value to be optimized. A deep appreciation of materials science and engineering, coupled with both the chemical and mechanical influences which act on the ceramic in use, is needed to understand the wear and friction of these materials.

Fracture, plastic flow, and tribochemical processes can all play key roles in the wear and friction of ceramics. It can be argued that their tribological behavior is even more complex than that of metals. This book, which focuses on the subject from a materials science perspective, forms a valuable contribution to the literature on the tribology of engineering ceramics and their composites, and the authors are to be congratulated on its comprehensive scope.

PROF. IAN HUTCHINGS

*Cambridge, UK*

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# FOREWORD

Microstructures of structural ceramics and their composites have been developed during the last decades mainly for applications under static and dynamic mechanical, thermal, or corrosive loads. Among others, the aim was to improve fracture toughness to overcome the inherent brittleness and increase the reliability of ceramic components in high-loaded applications by optimizing microstructural features, such as size and shape of grains or reinforcing phases, as well as processing technologies. However, to use the potential of ceramic materials in components under high tribological loading, materials microstructures have to be adjusted based on a competent knowledge of tribological mechanisms involved and the structure-property relationships. Using case studies, this book contributes to filling the gap in our understanding of the effects of structures of ceramic materials on tribological behavior. Beginning with fundamental aspects of structure and properties of ceramic materials as well as an introduction to tribology, it covers the tribological behavior of a wide range of materials from structural ceramics through bioceramics, biocomposites, and nanocomposites to cermets. This book can be very useful for newcomers, such as students, in the field of ceramics and tribology, as well as for readers with an interest in utilizing the high potential of ceramic materials in tribological applications.

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Dr. Bikramjit Basu is currently an Associate Professor at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, and is on leave from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur, India.

Bikramjit obtained his undergraduate and postgraduate degrees, both in Metallurgical Engineering, from the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Durgapur, and the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, in 1995 and 1997, respectively. He earned his PhD in Ceramics at Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium, in March 2001. He returned to India to join IIT Kanpur in November 2001 as Assistant Professor after a brief postdoctoral research experience at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He held visiting positions at the University of Warwick (U.K.), Seoul National University (South Korea), and University Polytechnic Catalonia (Spain).

Dr. Basu has authored or co-authored more than 140 peer-reviewed research papers with 20 papers in the *Journal of American Ceramic Society*. He is the principal editor of the book *Advanced Biomaterials: Fundamentals, Processing and Applications* (John Wiley & Sons Inc., in association with American Ceramic Society), which was published in September 2009. He is on the editorial boards of five international journals and serves as a reviewer of more than 20 SCI journals in the area of ceramics and biomaterials. He has edited a number of special issues of various journals, including *Journal of Materials Science*, *International Journal of Applied Ceramics Technology*, and *Journal of Biomedical Materials Research: Part B*.

At IIT Kanpur, Dr. Basu established a vibrant research program in the area of tribology, structural ceramics, and biomaterials. His research spans the interdisciplinary areas of ceramics, tribology, and biomaterials. In developing interdisciplinary research programs in tribology and ceramics, he has collaborated with the

materials scientists of the International Advanced Research Center for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI), Defense Metallurgical Research Laboratory (DMRL), National Metallurgical Laboratory (NML), Central Glass and Ceramics Research Institute (CGCRI), Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), and Bhabha Atomic Research Center (BARC).

In the area of tribology, he has made significant contributions in establishing the correlation between wear micromechanisms and material properties for a large number of ceramics/composites, including toughened ceramics, such as yttria-stabilized tetragonal zirconia polycrystals (Y-TZP),  $\text{Ti}_3\text{SiC}_2$ , sialon, and other materials, such as (W,Ti)C-Co,  $\text{TiB}_2$ -based ceramics, and TiCN-Ni-XC ( $X=\text{Nb/W/Ta/Hf}$ ). Using a self-designed high-speed cryo-tribometer, Dr. Basu and his co-workers performed a critical set of experiments to understand friction and wear mechanisms of high-purity metals and ceramic bearings. Such a study has relevance for space applications. His research mostly focused on developing microstructure-based understanding of wear mechanisms for various ultra-fine grained ceramics, nanocomposites, and biomaterials, as well as critically analyzing wear resistance properties in the light of the mechanics-based models. His fundamental contribution is the development of analytical models to predict the tribochemical and tribomechanical wear of ceramics.

In recognition of his contributions to the field of ceramics, tribology, and biomaterials, Dr. Basu received noteworthy awards from the Indian Ceramic Society (2003), Indian National Academy of Engineering (2004), and Indian National Science Academy (2005), and was awarded the “Metallurgist of the Year” (2010), by the Ministry of Steels, Government of India. He is the first Indian from India to receive the prestigious “Coble Award for Young Scholars” from the American Ceramic Society in 2008. In 2010, he received the NASI (National Academy of Science, India)–SCOPUS Young Scientist award.



**Dr. Mitjan Kalin**

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Since obtaining his PhD in 1999 (University of Ljubljana, Slovenia), Dr. Kalin has focused primarily on the research of wear and friction mechanisms for advanced materials, such as ceramics and coatings, as well as on boundary lubrication, tribochemistry, and nanotribology. In the last 10 years, he has led about 15 single-investigator, bilateral, and multilateral projects, more than

half of which were international. He has contributed to about 120 conference proceedings and 70 peer-reviewed papers. He has published eight chapters in interna-

tional books, as well as eight full-text student-course *scripta*. He is a co-editor of the book *Tribology of Mechanical Systems: A Guide to Present and Future Technologies* (ASME Press, 2004). He has delivered over 30 invited lectures and talks at conferences, institutes, universities, and technology-driven companies worldwide. He has also presented about 80 reports and studies made for industrial partners in the area of maintenance, wear, and lubrication. He is author or co-author of eight patents, two of them U.S. patents. Dr. Kalin has received three awards from the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering for scientific and research work, and two awards from the Slovenian Society for Tribology for international recognition. He is also a recipient of the prestigious Burt L. Newkirk Award (ASME, 2006) and the Slovenian state Zois award (2006) for important scientific achievements.

Dr. Kalin is a reviewer for over 30 international peer-reviewed journals in various fields of engineering, material science, physics, chemistry, and nanotechnology. Since 2006, he has been Associate Editor of the *ASME Journal of Tribology*. He is also a member of the editorial boards of the *Journal of Industrial Lubrication and Tribology*, *Emerald* (2004– ), *Advances in Tribology*, *Hindawi* (2009– ), and *ISRN Mechanical Engineering*, *Hindawi* (2010– ), and a member of the publishing council of the *SV-JME Journal of Mechanical Engineering* (2007– ). He has been Guest Editor of several special issues of *Tribology International* (Elsevier) and *Lubrication Science* (Wiley). He has also been recently appointed Editor of *Lubrication Science* (Wiley, 2012– ). He also reviews various proposals for Wiley, ASME Press, and Springer, over 30 SCI peer-reviewed journals in tribology and several related fields, as well as many proposals for national and international research agencies, such as the European Commission and the European Research Foundation. He is a secretary and member of the Executive Committee (1997– ) of the Slovenian Society for Tribology, and one of its founding members. He also serves as an executive board member (2006– ) of the Slovenian Society for Materials. He is also an active member of the Society of Tribologists and Lubrication Engineers (STLE); since 2001 he has served in various positions in the Ceramics and Composites Committee, and in 2004 he was elected as president of this committee. He has been a member of organizing, international, and/or advisory boards at many international conferences, and in 2009 acted as a chair of the Engineering Conferences International (ECI) conference “Advances in Boundary Lubrication and Surface Boundary Films” (Seville, Spain, 2009).

He is currently full professor (2010– ) and Head of the Chair for Tribology, Technical Diagnostics, and Maintenance (2011– ) at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. He has also done postdoctoral work at NIST, the Catholic University (Leuven, Belgium), Tohoku University (Japan), and the University of Pisa (Italy). Currently, he holds the position of Vice-Dean for Research and International Affairs at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Ljubljana on his second term.