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Nanokompositschichten - Konzepte, Synthese und analytische Herausforderungen

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Outline

- introduction: concepts for nanocomposite coatings
- metastable materials as multifunctional components for nanocomposite coatings
 - nanocrystalline metastable hard coatings: structural und functional design, coating concept thermodynamics, key parameters
 - experimental setup: r.f. magnetron sputtering
 - results and discussions: f.c.c. (Ti,Al)(C,N)
 - summary f.c.c (Ti,Al)(C,N)
- carbon-based nanocomposite coatings
 - experimental setup: r.f. magnetron sputtering
 - results and discussion: (Ti,Al)(C,N) / a-C
 - summary nanocomposites

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Concepts for multifunctional wear-resistant thin film nanocomposites

Basic characteristics: multiphase structure, at least one phase has dimensions in the nm-range

multiphase single-layer coatings

phase 1: nanocrystalline
phase 2: nanocrystalline or amorphous matrix phase + dispersed phase or percolated network

nanoscale multilayer coatings

layer 1: single- or multiphase
layer 2: single- or multiphase, but different multilayers, superlattices, nanostabilisation or nanolaminated composites

Synthesis of materials with new properties by engineering design of their nanoscale microstructure

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Nanocomposite coatings with amorphous carbon and nanocrystalline hard phases

Objective: to design wear-resistant and lubricious coatings with tailored hardness and toughness

Example: TiC/a-C coatings

Concepts for carbon-based nanocomposite coatings

binary carbide phase + a-C: WC/a-C, TiC/a-C
Dimigen, Klages, Benndorf, Grischke, Sjöström, Sundgren, Voevodin, Monteiro, Hogmark, Wiklund, Patscheider, Wänstrand, Park, Pauleau, Gulbinski, Pei, De Hosson et al.

binary non-carbide hard phase + a-C: TiB₂/a-C
Gilmore, Gissler, Mitterer, IMF I, only a few reports available

metastable hard phase + a-C: (Ti,Al)(N,C)/a-C (Ti,Cr)(N,C)/a-C
Shieh & Hon [2002/2005, CVD], Zhang [2002], Lackner [2004], IMF I [2005], emerging new class of material ?

hard phase + lubricious phase + a-C: WS₂/WC/a-C
Voevodin, Zabinski, Cavaleiro et al.

A.A. Voevodin, S.V. Prasad, J.S. Zabinski, J. Appl. Phys. 82 (2) (1997) 855.

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Structural and functional design

metallic hard materials: metal-like structures + adhesion + toughness

covalent hard materials: diamond-like structure + temperature strength + hardness

ionic hard materials: ionic structure + stability + inertness

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Coating concept for multifunctional metastable coatings

stabilization of covalent hard materials in a metal-like structure ⇒ combination of high + temperature strength + hardness + adhesion + toughness ⇒ realization: nanocrystalline metastable fcc (V,Al)(C,N)

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Thermodynamics of quasibinary sections in hard material systems

phase diagrams for hard material systems with limited, but different solubilities (schematic)

background of modelling the amorphous film constitution

free energies of formation (schematic) for systems with metallic and covalent hard materials

structure of cov. hard mat.
structure of met. hard mat.
amorphous
met. + cov. hard mat.
equilibrium phases
metastable phases
met. hard mat. amorphous cov. hard mat.

$T = \text{const.}$

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Estimation of free energies of metastable film materials by combining lattice stability with the regular solution model

$G = \sum_i n_i G_i + G_m$

$\Delta G_m = \sum_i n_i \Delta G_i + \Delta G_m$

lattice stability
 metallic hard materials in the structure of covalent or ionic hard materials ($\Delta G_i \sim +70$ kJ/mol)

free energy of mixing (regular solution model)
 $\Delta G_m = \Delta H_m - T \Delta S_m^{id}$ ($T \Delta S_m^{exc.} = 0$)
 $\Delta S_m^{id} = R(x_A \ln x_A + x_B \ln x_B)$
 $\epsilon x_A x_B$
 $x_B = 1 - x_A$
 $\epsilon = \left(H_{AB} - \frac{H_{AA} + H_{BB}}{2} \right)$
 $\epsilon \sim 160$ kJ/mol-d - 30 kJ/mol

covalent or ionic hard materials in the structure of metallic hard materials ($\Delta G_i \sim +30$ kJ/mol)

amorphous film materials ($\Delta G_i \sim +20-50$ kJ/mol)

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The interaction energy ϵ as a key parameter for the formation of metastable materials

$\epsilon \in \text{E2-AIN} \downarrow$

- \Rightarrow possible composition range for metastable materials
- \Rightarrow enhancement of parameter range of deposition ($T_{\text{sub}}, E_{\text{ion}}, P_{\text{ion}}$) for metastable materials
- \Rightarrow decreasing of parameter range for the formation of amorphous materials

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Qualitative correlation between film constitution and diffusion distance l_D

- a-VCAIN
 $l_D = 0.5 - 1$ nm
- nc-fcc-VC+a-AINVC
nc-fcc-VC+a-AIN
 $l_D = 4 - 6$ nm
- nc-disordered metastable fcc-(V,Al)(C,N)
nc-disordered metastable hex-(Al,V)(N,C)
 $l_D > 6$ nm
- nc-ordered metastable fcc-(V,Al)(C,N)
nc-ordered metastable hex-(Al,V)(N,C)
 $l_D > 10$ nm
- nanocomposites:
nc-fcc-VC + nc-hex-AIN
 $l_D > 100$ nm

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r.f. magnetron sputtering

VC:AIN - 60:40-sputter target; sputtering of atomic V, C, Al, N

250/500 W r.f.-target power
13.56 MHz
5.65/11.3 W/cm²

plasma torus

Ar, V, Al, N, C, Ar⁺

0.7/1.1 Pa

Si(100) and hard metal

mainly argon ions: 25 eV - 175 eV

150/220°C substrate temperature

$P_{\text{r.f., Target}} = 250$ W
 $p_{\text{Ar}} = 1.1$ Pa
 $T_S = 150$ °C

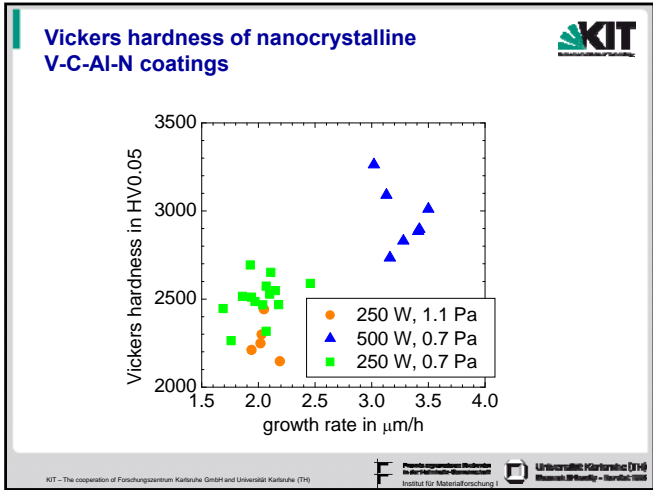
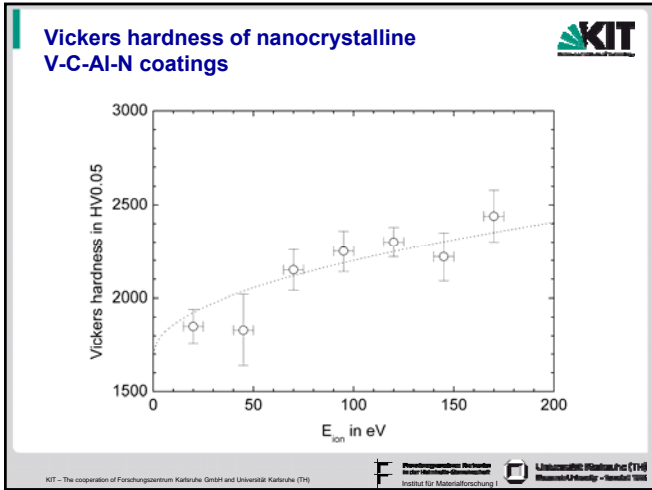
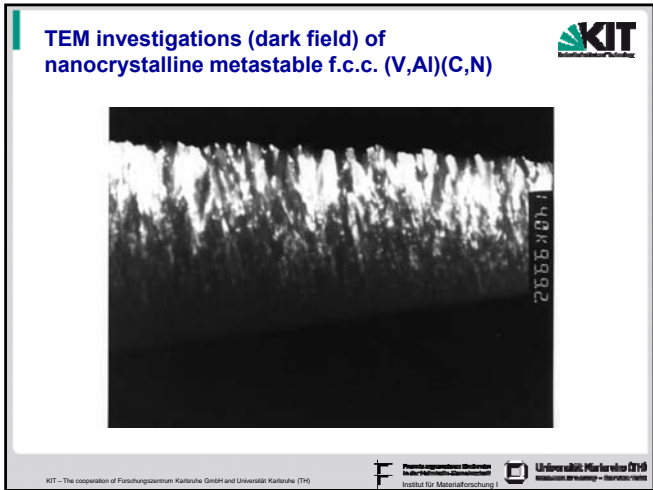
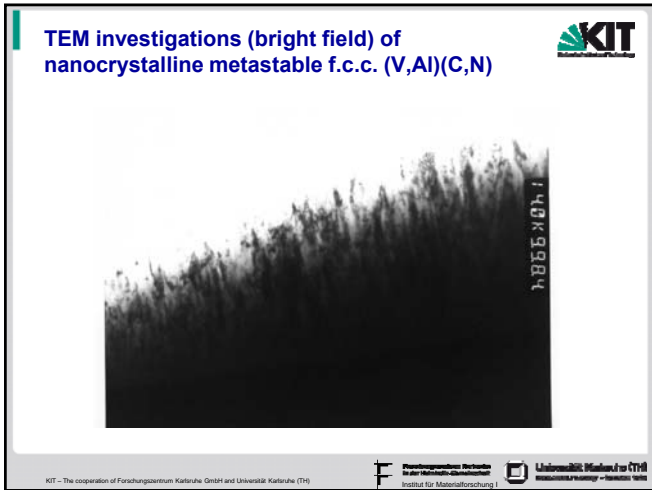
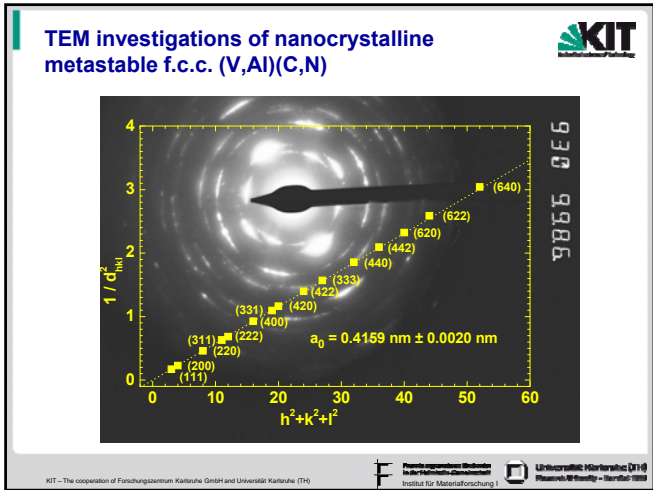
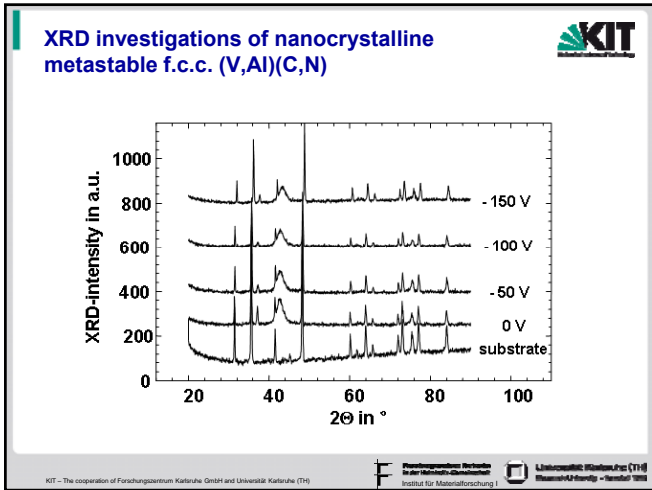
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SEM analysis of V-C-Al-N coatings

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3 µm

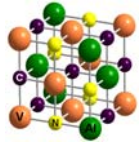
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Summary: nanocrystalline, metastable f.c.c (V,Al)(C,N)

thermodynamic modelling

key parameters for the formation of metastable thin films



magnetron sputtering	constitution	mechanical properties
$P_{r.f., target} = 250 / 500 \text{ W}$ $\nu = 13.56 \text{ MHz}$ $VC : AIN = 60 : 40$ $p_{Ar} = 0.7 / 1.1 \text{ Pa}$ $T_S = 150 / 220^\circ\text{C}$ $E_{Ar+} = 25 - 175 \text{ eV}$ $R = 1.69 - 3.5 \mu\text{m/h}$	zone 1 and T nanocrystalline metastable $fcc (V_{0.3}, Al_{0.2})(C_{0.3}, N_{0.2})$ $d_{crystal} = 4 - 10 \text{ nm}$ $a_0 = 0.4159 \pm 0.0020 \text{ nm}$	Vickers hardness $1850 - 3260 \text{ HV}_{0.05}$ $E/(1-\nu^2)$ $450 - 520 \text{ GPa}$ $L_c = 25 - 50 \text{ N}$

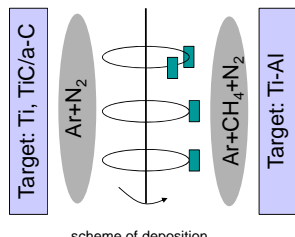

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Magnetron-sputtering of nanocomposite coatings in the system Ti-Al-N-C

equipment: Hauser HTC 625 machine, 1 or 2 target-configuration resp.

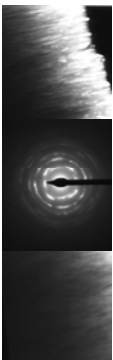
process parameters
 Ar flow: 200 sccm
 sputtering power: 3 - 6 kW
 substrate bias: 80 V
 N₂ flow: 0 - 32 sccm
 CH₄ flow: 0 - 30 sccm
 temperature: 100 - 400°C

targets: commercial TiAl (Ti:Al 50/50), Ti, and TiC/a-C 30/70, size: 400 mm x 125 mm

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Metastable nanocrystalline fcc (V,Al)(C,N) hard coatings



a-VCAlN $l_0 = 0.5 - 1 \text{ nm}$
nc-fcc-VC+a-AiNVC nc-fcc-VC+a-AiN $l_0 = 4 - 6 \text{ nm}$
nc-disordered metastable fcc-(V,Al)(C,N) nc-disordered metastable hex-(Al,V)(N,C) $l_0 > 6 \text{ nm}$
nc-ordered metastable fcc-(V,Al)(C,N) nc-ordered metastable hex-(Al,V)(N,C) $l_0 > 10 \text{ nm}$
nanocomposites: nc-fcc-VC + nc-hex-AiN $l_0 > 100 \text{ nm}$

rf magnetron sputtering VC/AlN 60:40 target 220°C, -175 V bias

nanocrystalline, fcc (V_{0.3}Al_{0.2})(C_{0.3}N_{0.2})
 crystallite size < 10 nm
 $a_0 = 0.4102 \text{ nm}$
 $a_{0, VC} = 0.4159 \text{ nm}$

up to 3200 HV_{0.05}
 up to 520 GPa (VC: 2300 HV_{0.05})
 (AlN: 1200 HV_{0.05})

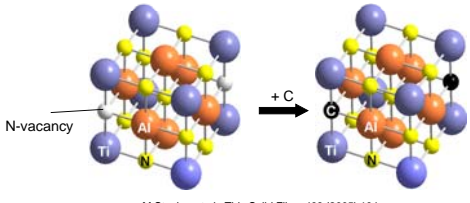
Correlation between film constitution and diffusion length l_0

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Growth model of magnetron-sputtered (Ti,Al)(N,C)/a-C nanocomposite coatings

five-step growth model of Ti-Al-N-C nanocomposite coatings:

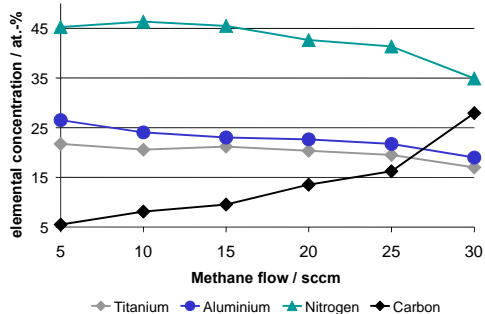
- start from sub-stoichiometric fcc TiAl_{1-x}
- fill in N-vacancies by C atoms
- substitute regularly N atoms by C atoms
- build carbon nano-clusters/agglomerates
- build continuous carbon phase



M. Stueber et al., Thin Solid Films 493 (2005) 104

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Chemical composition of magnetron-sputtered Ti-Al-N-C-coatings



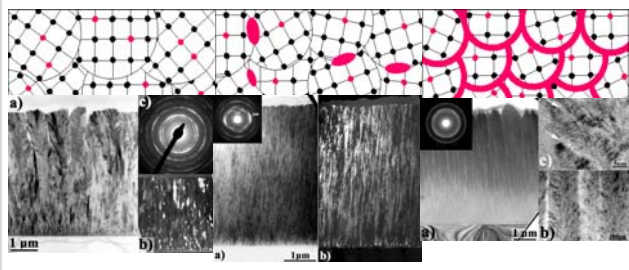
Methane flow / sccm	Titanium (at.-%)	Aluminium (at.-%)	Nitrogen (at.-%)	Carbon (at.-%)
5	~20	~25	~45	~5
10	~20	~24	~45	~8
15	~20	~23	~44	~10
20	~20	~22	~43	~13
25	~20	~21	~42	~16
30	~20	~20	~38	~28

Characterisation method: electron probe micro analysis (Cameca microbeam system)

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Carbon-based nanocomposite coatings - the (Ti,Al)(N,C)/a-C example

reactive d.c. magnetron sputtering, Hauser HTC 625 machine, TiAl 50/50 targets, 200°C, -60 V bias

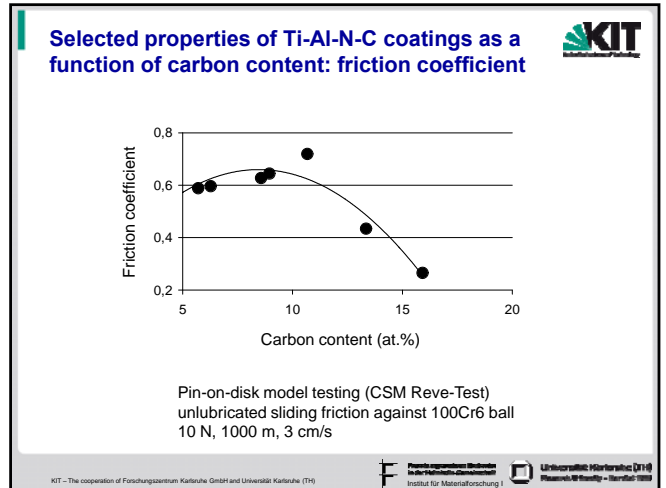
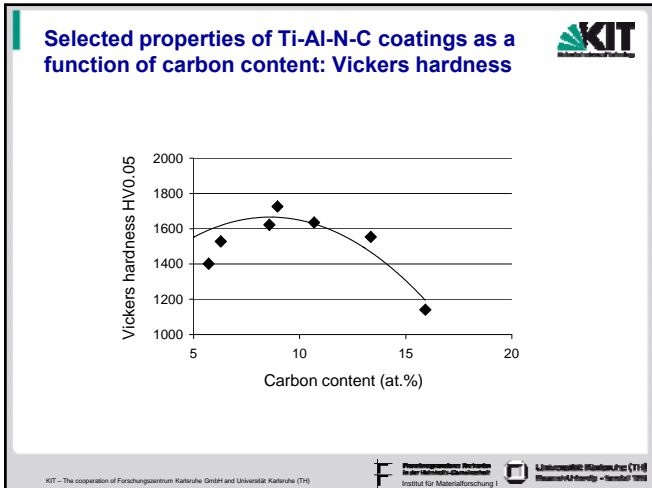


0 < at.-% C < 8
 metastable solid solution
 single-phase fcc (Ti,Al)(N,C)

8 < at.-% C < 16.5
 isolated carbon nanoclusters
 nanocomposite structures (Ti,Al)(N,C)/a-C

16.5 < at.-% C < 28
 a-C grain boundary phase

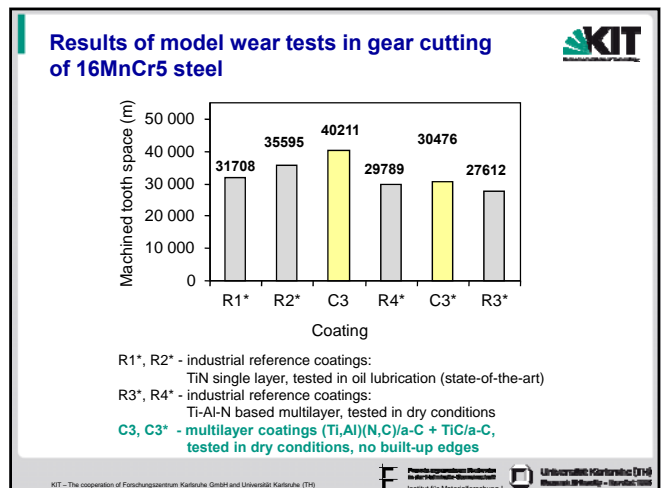
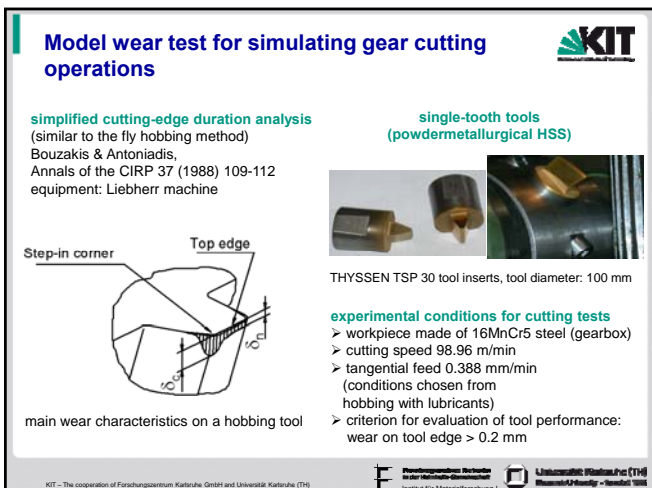
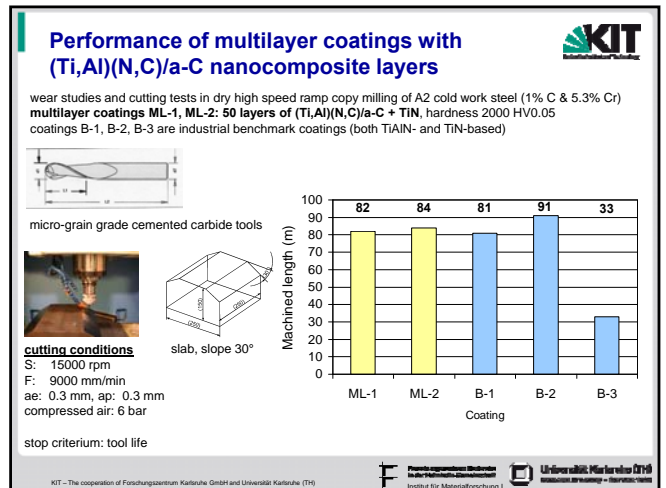
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Coatings selected for dry cutting tests (milling operation)

Nanostructured carbon composite coating	name	No. of layers	C content of Ti-Al-N-C layer	T _{sub.} (°C)	HV 0.05	Δ (d ₁ /d ₂)	operation: milling of		
							Orvar	Rigor	hex. C
single layer coating (Ti,Al)(N,C)/a-C	A1(A1*)	1	13.5 at.-%	200	2050		X	X	(X)
	A2	1	13.5 at.-%	400	1670				X
multilayer coating (Ti,Al)(N,C)/a-C + TiN	B1(B1*)	50	8.1 at.-%	400	2050	2.2			X
	B2(B2*)	50	8.1 at.-%	400	1840	10	X	X	(X)
multilayer coating (Ti,Al)(N,C)/a-C + TiC/a-C	B3	50	13.5 at.-%	400	1880	8.8	X	X	
	C1	100	13.5 at.-%	100	2070	1	X	X	
	C2	100	13.5 at.-%	100	2440	1			X

Benchmarking with industrial reference coatings (various suppliers)
R1 – TiAlN single layer coating, R2 – TiAlCN multilayer coating,
R3 – TiAlN single layer coating, R4 – TiAlN multilayer coating, R5 – TiN single layer coating

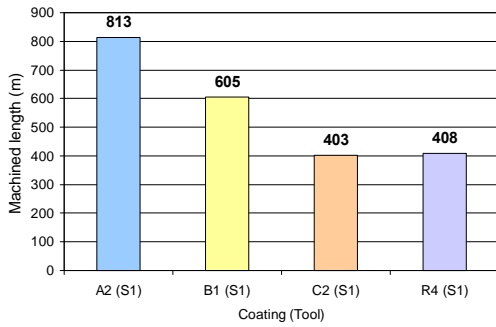


Ramp copy milling of graphite POCO EDM-200 (lab-scale)



cutting conditions:
 S: 11000 rpm
 F: 3800 mm/min
 ae: 0.2 mm
 ap: 1.0 mm

stop criterion:
 tool life



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Summary: (Ti,Al)(C,N)/a-C nanocomposite coatings



- significant improvement of thin film properties (hardness, elastic moduli, intrinsic stress) by
 - appropriate material selection and adjusting of kinetic and energetic conditions of PVD film growth
 - design of specific nanoscale multilayer architectures
 - superfine structural ordering at the nanoscale (grain boundaries + interfaces)
- nanocomposite formation in carbon-based systems – elastic coupling of nanograins and layers through amorphous carbon at grain boundaries, column boundaries and at interfaces

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