

## Accepted Manuscript

Title: Ultra-High Temperature Deformation in TaC and HfC

Authors: Chase J. Smith, Morgan A. Ross, Nicholas De Leon,  
Christopher R. Weinberger, Gregory B. Thompson

PII: S0955-2219(18)30446-1  
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jeurceramsoc.2018.07.017>  
Reference: JECS 11985

To appear in: *Journal of the European Ceramic Society*

Received date: 26-4-2018  
Revised date: 30-6-2018  
Accepted date: 13-7-2018

Please cite this article as: Smith CJ, Ross MA, De Leon N, Weinberger CR, Thompson GB, Ultra-High Temperature Deformation in TaC and HfC, *Journal of the European Ceramic Society* (2018), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jeurceramsoc.2018.07.017>

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## Ultra-High Temperature Deformation in TaC and HfC

Chase J. Smith<sup>a</sup>, Morgan A. Ross<sup>a</sup>, Nicholas De Leon<sup>a</sup>, Christopher R. Weinberger<sup>b,c</sup>, and Gregory B. Thompson<sup>a,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> The University of Alabama, Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering, 401, 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 285 Hardaway Hall, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487, USA

<sup>b</sup> Colorado State University, Department of Mechanical Engineering, 1374 Campus Delivery, Fort Collins, CO 80523-1374, USA

<sup>c</sup> Colorado State University, School of Advanced Materials Discovery, Fort Collins, CO 80523-1374, USA

\* Corresponding author. Tel.: +1 205 348 1589; fax +1 205 348 2164.  
E-mail address: [Gthompson@eng.ua.edu](mailto:Gthompson@eng.ua.edu) (G.B Thompson).

### Abstract

TaC and HfC bars were thermo-mechanically tested up to 2900 °C using a non-contact loading method based on the Lorentz force. It was observed that HfC deflected more than TaC up to 2300 °C, which has been contributed to a difference in grain size facilitating diffusional creep, either Nabarro-Herring or Coble creep. Above 2500 °C, TaC continued to deflect more with temperature whereas HfC showed a reduced deflection. This reduced deflection was found to be an artifact of a preload plastic deformation response. Though both sets of samples were identified to have a prevalence of  $\langle 110 \rangle \{ 110 \}$  slip, at elevated temperatures, it appears that mass transport and diffusional creep mechanisms dominate evident by porosity in the grain boundaries. The activation energies of TaC were found to be  $946 \pm 157$  kJ/mol (between 2500 - 2700 °C) and HfC to be  $685 \pm 54$  kJ/mol (between 2100 - 2300 °C).

Keywords: Transmission electron microscopy (TEM), Transition metal carbides, Dislocations, creep, TaC, HfC

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