

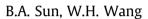
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The fracture of bulk metallic glasses



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ABSTRACT

The fracture of metallic glasses has received relatively little attention until recently. The development of bulk metallic glasses (BMGs) with more compositions, large sample sizes and diverse fracture behaviors provides a series of ideal model systems for the study of fracture in glassy materials. The fracture toughness of different BMGs varies significantly from approaching ideally brittle to the highest known damage tolerance. Diverse fracture patterns on the fracture surface, fracture modes and dynamic propagation of cracks have been observed in different BMGs. In this review paper, we present a comprehensive view of the state-of-the-art research on various aspects of the fracture of BMGs, including fracture behavior and characteristics, fracture mode, fracture criterion, fracture toughness, and fracture morphology. Accumulated experimental data on BMG fracture are presented and their possible theoretical connections with continuum fracture mechanics and the atomic-scale process are introduced and discussed. Modeling studies of the fracture of BMGs by various computational methods are also reviewed. The review also presents a number of perspectives, including the relation of BMG fracture study to other topics, and unsolved issues for future investigation.

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Contents

| 1. | | duction | |
|----|-------|---|-----|
| 2. | A bri | ef introduction to fracture mechanics principle | 217 |
| 3. | | ure phenomenology of BMGs | |
| | 3.1. | The plastic deformation process before fracture | 219 |
| | 3.2. | The shear banding process: precursor of the fracture of BMGs | 223 |
| | 3.3. | The general fracture behaviors | 230 |
| | 3.4. | Fracture modes | 232 |
| | | 3.4.1. Shear fracture mode | |
| | | 3.4.2. Cleavage mode | 233 |
| | | 3.4.3. Fragmentation mode | 235 |
| | | 3.4.4. Ductile fracture mode with necking instability | 236 |
| | 3.5. | Fracture strength | 237 |
| | | 3.5.1. Correlation between fracture strength and Young's modulus in BMGs | 237 |
| | | 3.5.2. Temperature, loading rate and pressure dependence of strength | 238 |
| | | 3.5.3. The statistical properties of fracture strength of BMGs | |
| | 3.6. | Failure criterion | 241 |
| 4. | Fract | ure toughness | |
| | 4.1. | Fracture toughness measurement and value of BMGs | 244 |
| | | 4.1.1. Procedure for fracture toughness measurement | 244 |
| | | 4.1.2. Fracture toughness values of BMGs | 246 |
| | | 4.1.3. Effects of sample geometry, size, and testing conditions on fracture toughness | |
| | | measurement | |
| | 4.2. | Crack initiation and growth during toughness tests | |
| | 4.3. | Factors affecting fracture toughness | |
| | | 4.3.1. Composition and structure. | |
| | | 4.3.2. Preparation conditions of BMG | |
| | | 4.3.3. Effects of thermal-annealing and structural relaxations | |
| | | 4.3.4. Microalloying effects | |
| | 4.4. | Intrinsic correlation between elastic constant and fracture toughness | |
| | 4.5. | Intrinsic and extrinsic toughening of BMGs | |
| | | 4.5.1. Intrinsic toughening of BMGs | |
| | | 4.5.2. Extrinsic toughening of BMGs | |
| 5. | | ure surface morphology | |
| | 5.1. | Vein-like or dimple patterns. | |
| | 5.2. | Nanoscale periodical corrugations | |
| | 5.3. | Other fracture patterns | |
| | 5.4. | Dynamic instability of crack and energy dissipation in BMGs | |
| | 5.5. | Fractal nature of fracture surface in BMGs | |
| | 5.6. | Summary on fracture morphology of BMGs | |
| 6. | | eling and simulations on fracture process of BMGs | |
| | 6.1. | Coarse-grain continuum modeling. | |
| | 6.2. | Finite element methods | |
| | 6.3. | | 293 |
| | 6.4. | Mimic experiments and modeling | |
| 7. | | nary and outlook | |
| | | owledgments | |
| | Refei | ences | 300 |

1. Introduction

Metals and alloys, which have been the most important material class used by human beings for thousands of years, are crystals. This is mainly due to the non-directional nature of metallic bonding, which allows metallic liquid to crystallize much more easily than the melts of covalent bonding matters including organics and polymers. Amorphous alloys, also known as metallic glasses, with the

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