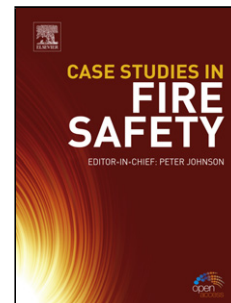


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## Growth kinetics of metastable pits on sputtered nanocrystalline stainless steel

Tianshu Li<sup>a,b</sup>, Li Liu<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Bin Zhang<sup>b</sup>, Ying Li<sup>b</sup>, Fuhui Wang<sup>a,b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> *Key Laboratory for Anisotropy and Texture of Materials (MoE),*

*School of Materials Science and Engineering, Northeastern University, NO. 3-11*

*Wenhua Road, Shenyang 110819, China*

<sup>b</sup> *Institute of Metal Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences, NO. 62 Wencui Road,*

*Shenyang 110016, China*

### Research Highlights of this work are listed as follows:

- Pitting current on sputtered NCss keeps constant during metastable growth.
- Remnant passive film over pit mouth do not undergo continuous rupture.
- Diffusion of metal cations away from the pit is greatly restricted.
- Transition from metastable to stable pit on sputtered NCss is greatly inhibited.

### Abstract

The development of metastable pit on sputtered nanocrystalline stainless steel was investigated in 3.5 wt.% NaCl solution. Its current transient is distinct from that of conventional coarse-grained stainless steel. The remnant thin membrane passive film over the pit mouth was found to act as a diffusion barrier, however, it do not

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\* Corresponding author: Tel./fax: +86 24 2392 5323  
E-mail: [liliu@imr.ac.cn](mailto:liliu@imr.ac.cn)

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