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PII: S0254-0584(17)30611-9

DOI: 10.1016/j.matchemphys.2017.08.002

Reference: MAC 19899

To appear in: Materials Chemistry and Physics

Received Date: 10 May 2017

Revised Date: 29 July 2017

Accepted Date: 02 August 2017

Please cite this article as: Yu-Siang Jhong, Chih-Wei Huang, Su-Jien Lin, Effects of CH₄ flow ratio on the structure and properties of reactively sputtered (CrNbSiTiZr)C_x coatings, *Materials*Chemistry and Physics (2017), doi: 10.1016/j.matchemphys.2017.08.002

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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Effects of CH₄ flow ratio on the structure and properties of reactively sputtered (CrNbSiTiZr)C_x coatings

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Abstract

High-entropy (CrNbSiTiZr) C_x coatings were successfully fabricated by reactive radio-frequency magnetron sputtering using an equimolar CrNbSiTiZr alloy target under CH₄-containing Ar flow. The effect of the CH₄ flow ratio on the chemical composition, microstructure, mechanical and tribological properties of (CrNbSiTiZr) C_x coatings was investigated. The carbon content in the coatings varied from 36.7 at% to 87.8 at% with an increasing CH₄ flow ratio from 3% to 20%. The (CrNbSiTiZr) C_x coatings revealed a simple NaCl-type FCC (face-centered cubic) structure. The maximum hardness of 32 GPa was obtained at the carbon content of 36.7 at% by applying substrate bias of -100 V. On the other hand, the coating with high carbon content of 87.8 at% possessed superior wear resistance, which friction coefficient and wear rate were, respectively, 0.07 and 2.0×10^{-7} mm³/N·m.

Keywords: Physical vapor deposition; High-entropy alloys; Coatings; Mechanical Property; Wear.

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