

coefficient to those of the closer components and be chemically compatible with them.

SOFCS operate at high temperatures under either oxidising or reducing atmospheres over a long period of time. This can create different problems such as interface reactions which could promote the formation of insulating phases, limiting their long-term stability [1]. In light of this, the idea is to find new materials that are very stable at high temperatures and have the properties described above.

Here we report the investigation of the family of pyrochlores of general formula $A_2B_2O_7$ (where A is a trivalent ion, usually a rare earth, and B is a tetravalent ion) which are known to exhibit oxygen ion conductivities of the order of 10-2 S/cm at 1000 °C, making them promising candidates as electrolytes. Examples include: $Gd_2(Zr_{1-x}Sn_x)_2O_7$, [2], Ca-doped $Gd_2Ti_2O_7$ [3] and Ca-doped $Gd_2(Zr_{0.3}Ti_{0.7})_2O_7$ [4].

In particular we have focused on $Ln_2Zr_2O_7$ (Ln= Lanthanide) whose structure is mainly governed by the ion size difference between Ln^{3+} and Zr^{4+} [5]. These materials have the properties needed to be a good electrolyte (high melting point, high thermal expansion coefficient, low thermal conductivity, high thermal stability and high electrical conductivity) in SOFCs [6]. Among the rare earth zirconates, $Ce_2Zr_2O_7$ bears additional interest due to the catalytic application of the CeO_2 - ZrO_2 in several chemical processes in industry and automobiles [7].

We have study the stability in air of the solid solutions $La_{2-x}Ce_xZr_2O_7$ and $Gd_{2-x}Ce_xZr_2O_7$ and the effect of the Ce- doping on the conductivity. The X-ray diffraction studies show, that the La- series keeps the pyrochlore structure up to $x = 0.5$, while the Gd one adopts the fluorite structure. These results will be correlated to the conductive behavior of these materials.

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Crystal Structure and Diffusion Path of Mixed Conductors $PrBa_{1-x}Sr_xCo_2O_{5+}$ ($x = 0$ and 0.5)

Chen, Yi-Ching,^a Yashima Masatomo,^{a,b} Pena Juan,^c Kilner A. John,^d
^aDepartment of Materials Science and Engineering, Tokyo Institute of Technology (Japan). ^bDepartment of Chemistry and Materials Science, Tokyo Institute of Technology (Japan). ^cOak Ridge National laboratory (USA). ^dDepartment of Materials, Imperial College (UK).
 E-mail: yashima@cms.titech.ac.jp

Mixed oxide-ionic and electronic conducting ceramics (MIECs) will become increasingly important for future environmentally friendly ("green") societies, because the MIECs are used as materials for oxygen separation membranes and cathodes of solid-oxide fuel cells (SOFCs). Oxygen is an important reactant in the industrial chemical processes and air is usually utilized as the oxygen source due to the cost problem. For lower temperature devices, novel MIECs with higher oxide-ion diffusivity are required. For this purpose, it is of vital importance to investigate the oxide-ion diffusion mechanism at an atomic scale. Recently, layered perovskite oxides such as $PrBaCo_2O_{5+}$, with cation order has been reported for cathode applications in the next generation of

intermediate temperature SOFCs operations [1]. $PrBa_{0.5}Sr_{0.5}Co_2O_{5+}$ exhibits better cell performance [2]. Parfitt *et al.* suggested that cation order gives larger oxide-ion diffusivity and larger activation energy by molecular dynamics [3]. However, the structural origin, cation disorder and oxygen diffusion mechanism in $PrBa_{1-x}Sr_xCo_2O_{5+}$ is unclear.

In the present work, the crystal structures of $PrBaCo_2O_{5+}$ and $PrBa_{0.5}Sr_{0.5}Co_2O_{5+}$ have been studied through neutron powder diffractometry at 1000 °C. The $PrBaCo_2O_{5+}$ and $PrBa_{0.5}Sr_{0.5}Co_2O_{5+}$ were identified to be tetragonal $P4/mmm$ and $Pm\bar{3}m$, respectively. The diffraction data were analyzed by a combination of the Rietveld analysis, maximum-entropy method (MEM) and MEM-based pattern fitting (MPF). The refined interstitial oxygen concentration δ in $PrBa_{0.5}Sr_{0.5}Co_2O_{5+}$ is larger than that in $PrBaCo_2O_{5+}$. The refined oxygen atomic displacement parameters of $PrBa_{0.5}Sr_{0.5}Co_2O_{5+}$ are larger than those in $PrBaCo_2O_{5+}$. The oxygen atom exhibited a large anisotropic thermal motions perpendicular to the Co-O bond, $U_{22}(O)$ ($=U_{33}(O)$) $>$ $U_{11}(O)$. MEM nuclear-density distributions also indicated large anisotropic thermal motions of oxygen atoms perpendicular to the Co-O bond [4]. In the MEM nuclear density distributions, the oxygen diffusion paths in both of $PrBaCo_2O_{5+}$ and $PrBa_{0.5}Sr_{0.5}Co_2O_{5+}$ were visualized.[5]

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In-situ high temperature powder diffraction study of T/P91 steel oxidation

Ioana Popa,^a Harold Evin,^a Caroline Curfs,^b Sebastien Chevalier,^a
^aLaboratoire Interdisciplinaire Carnot de Bourgogne, CNRS – Université de Bourgogne, 21078 Dijon, ^bESRF, 38043 Grenoble (France). E-mail: ioana.popa@u-bourgogne.fr

Low chromium ferritic steels have been extensively studied for applications in power generating plant life time. Formation of dense, thick, and adherent chromia (Cr_2O_3) layer on stainless steel, which is considered like a good way to increase the oxidation resistance, is closely related to many parameters such as chromium content, temperature, oxidizing atmosphere, cycles frequency and time of exposure [1-3]. For grades with 9%Cr such as T/P91, the chromium content is not enough to fulfil the protective action by creating a continuous chromia scale over 600°C. As a consequence, iron oxidation can occur, and lead to the total destruction of the material [2]. Corrosion mechanisms were proposed after several studies of post-mortem samples but no clear interpretation was found about oxide formation process before critic behaviour of the steel ("break away").

The key to a successful development of T/P91 steel grade lies in a better understanding of the material reactivity at high temperature through the observation and characterization of the germination and growth of the surface oxide layers occurring within the first oxidation instants. Three oxides can mainly be formed under oxidation conditions: Cr_2O_3 , Fe_2O_3 and Fe_3O_4 . If the first one has a protective action against corrosion, the appearance and growth of the other two oxides can lead to the catastrophic behaviour.

In order to better understand the oxidation mechanisms of T/P91 steel, an in-situ diffraction experiment was performed at the ID31 High