

Nuclear corrosion: achievements et challenges

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MAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE "CEA CORROSION UNIT"

NUCLEAR CORROSION: ACHIEVEMENTS & CHALLENGES

Damien Féron & Fabrice Legendre

Service de la corrosion et du comportement des matériaux dans leur environnement Département de Physico-Chimie, Direction de l'Energie Nucléaire Commissariat à l'énergie atomique et aux énergies alternatives *French atomic energy and alternatives energies Commission* Saclay, France

Department of Quantum Science and Energy Engineering Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan February 17, 2016

Ceaden content

□ Introduction: CEA Corrosion Unit

□ Gen 2&3 (Pressurized Water Reactor – PWR)

- Gen 4 (Liquid metals, gas & supercritical water cooled reactors)
- Nuclear waste storage
- Decommissioning & conclusive remarks



Coupling events

- Electrochemical reactions
- Transport

• ...

· Corrosion products

Pluri-physics

Interactions materials/environments

- Several alloys
- · Liquids, gas, acids, molten salts and liquid metals
- · Solicitations: mechanics, irradiation, bacteria...

Multi-parameters



Localized phenomena

- Stress corrosion cracking
- Intergranular corrosion Pitting
- Crevice corrosion, ...
- Multi-scales



- Metal/oxides/environ.
- Morphological evolution
 - · Defects , impurities
 - ...

Homogenization

Multi-analyses (observations at the scales adapted to the phenomena)

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« CEA corrosion unit »



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INTRO I GEN 2 & 3 I GEN 4 I NUCLEAR WASTE STORAGE I DECOMMISSIONING

Approach and methodology



Data acquisition & surface analysis

- Specific facilities (autoclaves, loops...)
- Specific methods (isotopic tracers,...)
- Surface analyses
- · Semi-empirical modeling



Mesoscopic modeling

- Uniform corrosion, Intergranular corrosion...
- Estimation of the Kinetics of Oxidation
- Diffusion Poisson Coupled Model



Simulations

Thermodynamics (Calphad, PhreeCea,...)
Cellular automata

Atomistic & molecular dynamics







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Facilities at the "CEA corrosion department"



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HNO₃

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Sodium



Oxidation & H₂



HAWAI Facility with 3 autoclaves and one tensile machine in hot cell (HP & HT) Results included in this document are CEA's property. They cannot be disclosed without prior authorization.

Stress Corrosion Cracking

Some specific experimental facilities



Autoclaves & loops with tensile machines

Irradiated materials (stainless steel & zircaloy)



Irradiation & electrochemistry

Electrochemical cells



HP & HT cell (e & α irradiations)





STRESS CORROSION CRACKING





Intergranular SCC



Grains Intergranular cracks

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Transgranular SCC

17-4 PH Stainless steel, 300°C

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STRESS CORROSION CRACKING

Crack depth Image: Section between the sectween the sectween

2: Breakdown of the passive layer

3-4: Inside and outside cracks (anodic and cathodic reactions)

INTRO I GEN 2&3-SCC I GEN 4 I NUCLEAR WASTE STORAGE I DECOMMISSIONING STRESS CORROSION CRACKING OF NI ALLOYS

Historical background SCC of Alloy 600 or the "Coriou effect"



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STRESS CORROSION CRACKING OF NI ALLOYS



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STRESS CORROSION CRACKING OF NI ALLOYS

Use of tracers (¹⁸O) to investigate the growth of the oxide of the passive film and in the crack

Evidence and role of oxide at the crack tip (1)





¹⁸O is located at the tip of the IG penetration and in the outer part of the oxide surface layer

=> Oxygen and hydrogen can diffuse in the crack and in an IG attack

P. Laghoutaris & Al., 2009-2016

Pre-exposure in primary water conditions followed by an exposure period in H_2O_{18} under same conditions

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Hydrogen origin

Two series of experiments were done, in which the specimens are exposed to:

- a classical primary medium (with H₂O), pressurized by deuterium gas (D₂).
- a PWR primary medium in which the water is replaced by deuterated water D_2O , pressurized by classical hydrogen gas (H_2).



STRESS CORROSION CRACKING OF NI ALLOYS



SIMS profiles of the isotopic tracers through the oxide scale as a function of the recalculated depth (the oxide scale is represented by the ¹⁶O): (a) ¹⁸O tracer (subplot: total oxygen signal's second derivative used to identify the domains); (b) ²H tracer.

respectively D_{sc} =(4.6±0.9) x10⁻¹⁷ cm²/s for ¹⁸O, and D_{sc} =(5.2±1.2) x10⁻¹⁷ cm²/s for ²H

 \Rightarrow diffusion of OH⁻ in the oxide layer

F. Jambon & al., Solid State Ionics, 231 (2013) 69-73

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STRESS CORROSION CRACKING OF STAINLESS STEELS

SIMS profiles of the isotopic tracers through the oxide scale as a function of the recalculated depth: 2-stages (600h+16h) corrosion experiments , 325°C, with ¹⁸O tracer and ²H tracer during the second stage.



□ Oxygen and hydrogen transport is not coupled □ Short-circuit diffusion coefficient of ¹⁸O: D_{sc} =(9±&) x10⁻¹⁷ cm²/s

M. Dumerval & al., Corrosion science 85 (2014) 251-257

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FUEL CLADDING EVOLUTION DURING LOCA

Zircaloy oxidation at high temperature

EKINOX (Estimation of the Kinetics of Oxidation) Calculations to anticipate the evolution in the substrate during alloy oxidation



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FUEL CLADDING EVOLUTION DURING LOCA



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temperatures / Corrosive environments

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Molten Salt Reactor

Sodium & lead Fast reactor (SFR and LFR) & fusion (ITER)



Pb-17Li/Helium Dual Coolant Blanket





Liquid metals or gas (helium) High dose rates High temperatures

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uthorization

LIQUID METAL CORROSION

Corrosion in reducing liquid metals: dissolution (Li, Pb-Li, Na & Pb with low oxygen content)



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LIQUID METAL CORROSION

Corrosion in "oxidising" liquid metals: oxidation & dissolution (Na, with high oxygen content)



"Two stages" Experiments with oxygen 18 to know where the oxide growth occurs

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LIQUID METAL CORROSION

Corrosion in "oxidising" liquid metals: oxidation & dissolution (Na with high oxygen content)





Final stage (18O, 960h)

LIQUID METAL CORROSION

Corrosion in "oxidising" liquid metals: oxidation & dissolution (Pb-Bi with high oxygen content)



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Ferritic steel (9% Cr) in Pb-Bi at 500°C with oxygen : formation of two oxide layers (protective)

Use of tracors to determine the growth mechanism (¹⁶O and ¹⁸O) First with ¹⁶O and ¹⁸O dissolved in liquid Pb-Bi, followed by an exposure only with ¹⁶O.

>> Growth of magnetite layer at the interface with Pb-Bi>> Growth of the spinel layer at the metal/spinel interface

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High temperature corrosion in helium systems (major role of the impurities / example with CO)



Evolution of CO concentration with time and temperature during the exposure of a nickel base alloy in an helium flux (other impurities constant)

- Carburation between 650 and 900°C
- Decarburation at 980°C





From C. Cabet & al.

PASSIVE ALLOYS IN SUPERCRITICAL WATER

316L stainless steel exposed 335h at 600°C, 25 MPa in ultra pure water with H₂



Good behavior of 690 nickel base alloy (higher chromium content)

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SUPERCRITICAL WATER

Mechanism of the formation of the double layer observed in SCW on stainless steels: use of tracers, ¹⁸O



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Corrosion modeling of an iron based alloy in passive conditions





- Corrosion modeling based on Fick and Poisson equations with moving interfaces (Diffusion Poisson Coupling Model - DPCM)
- Electrochemical experiments for data acquisition and verification
- Coupling with geochemical models
- Clay and concrete

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INTRO I GEN 283 I GEN 4 I NUCLEAR WASTE STORAGE DECOMMISSIONING LONG TERM CORROSION - MODELING



C. Bataillon & al. , Elect. Acta 55 (2010) 4451-4467

C. Bataillon & al. , J. Comput. Physics 231 (2012) 6213-6231

This model is under implantation in the nuclear waste simulations codes

USE OF ARCHEOLOGICAL ARTEFACTS



A. Michelin & al., JAAS (2012) Michelin et al., J. Analytical Atomic Spectrometry, 2013 Leon et al., Corrosion Science (2014)

D/H ratio map obtained at the metal/corrosion product interface



- Corrosion products on a 450 year-old archaeological iron nail in anoxic environment were investigated at the nanometer level using STXM
- Interfacial layer of 100nm to few µm at the interface metal/oxide interface (magnetite + maghemite, low porosity)
- Support the hypothesis of a nanolayer controlling the corrosion process (DPCM, Point Defect Model and associated models)

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STOCHASTIC MODELING & CORROSION



Réaction 2: dissolution of the oxide

Use of cellular automata to model corrosion phenomena



Archeological analogue with the presence of metallic inclusions inside the oxide layer



Continuous evolution of the interface morphology from uniform corrosion to more localized corrosion and creation of metal inclusions as observed on archeological analogues $\lambda = 0.70$ and $\varepsilon = 0.30$

D. di Caprio & al., Corrosion Science 53 (2011) 418–425

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Ceaden content



□ Gen 2&3 (Pressurized Water Reactor – PWR)

Gen 4

Nuclear waste storage

Decommissioning

□ Conclusion: modelling

Generic activities

- Atmospheric corrosion (from mechanisms to corrosion code)
- Chloride pitting on passive alloys

Specific programs

- Graphite
- Corrosion in supercritical fluids (**SCWO** and SCCO₂)
- Mg alloys corrosion in concrete or geo-polymer matrix

Expertise & consulting

- Transport
- Interim storage



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9 EDF reactors are under decommissioning

 1/skiteru a kesu presantreler (REP) Dioca A (200 Mir): 1997-1991
 197-1991
 1 1/skiteru a kendref (REL) Bernnis (70 Mir): 1987-1988 (EDF/CEA) 8 crédicteurs de la fillire of transmin naturel (200 Hirls): 1989-1997 Dinnon A (200 Mir): 1989-1997 Dinnon A (200 Mir): 1989-1990 Sant Laurenk (400 Mir): 1999-1990 Sant Laurenk (400 Mir): 1997-1992 Sant Laurenk (2155 Mir): 1977-1922

> tur à neutrons rapides (RI Asiville (1240MW) : 1986-19

Specificity: 6 UNGG reactors (graphite moderator, carbon dioxide, natural uranium)

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ATMOSPHERIC CORROSION / BASICS



The Evans droplet model (static conditions)



Capillary flow towards the three-phase contact line

« Coffee-ring » effect



R. D. Deegan. *Nature*, **1997**, 389, 827-829 H. Hu. *J. Phys. Chem.*, **2002**, 106, 1334-1344



solubilty and promotes the initiation of corrosion

V. Soulié, thése Université de Montpellier, 2014



□ « Calculations » based on ISO standards (9223 & 9224)

□ Mechanistic modelling

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ATMOSPHERIC CORROSION / MODELLING



Corrosion mechanism during a wet dry cycle (Based on Strattman works)

E. BURGER, & AL. CORROSION SCIENCE, V. 53(6), 2011, 2122-2130

ATMOSPHERIC CORROSION / MODELLING

Verification of the atmospheric mechanistic modelling



calculation of n wet dry cycles

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E. BURGER & AL. CORROSION SCIENCE, V. 53(6), 2011, 2122-2130

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 ε =3%, S_a=10 m².g⁻¹ L_o=150 µm

Experimental data: Ageing in climatic chamber

no

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SUPERCRITICAL WATER OXIDATION

ATALANTE / DELOS

DESTRUCTION OF CONTAMINATED ORGANIC LIQUID WASTES

- · Treatment of spent fuel contaminated organic liquids
- C.H.O.N., TBP/alcane, amines, aromatics...



Joussot-Dubien C., Turc H.A., Didier, G., Brevet FR 2814967, 2000 S. Sararde, 11th International Symposium on Supercritical Fluids, October 11-15, 2015, Seoul, Korea Results included in this document are CEA's property. They cannot be disclosed without prior authorization.



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CONCLUSIVE COMMENTS



Thank you for your attention



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