



Effects of B element on microstructure and mechanical properties of B_4C_p/Al composites fabricated by ultrasound assisted casting method

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Abstract: Ultrasound assisted casting method was applied to preparing B_4C_p/Al composites with the addition of B element by adding KBF_4 into $Al-B_4C-K_2TiF_6$ system. The effects of B element addition on the microstructure and mechanical properties as well as the reaction mechanism at the interface of composites were investigated. Experimental results showed that B element addition altered the B_4C_p/Al interface, induced more small-sized TiB_2 particles to distribute within the matrix. Therefore, cavitation and acoustic flow effects of the melt were intensified, which led to the breaking of B_4C clusters and finally led to the homogeneous microstructure and better mechanical properties of the composites.

Key words: B element; B_4C_p/Al composite; microstructure; mechanical properties; interface reaction; ultrasound; casting method

1 Introduction

B_4C possesses low density, high elastic modulus, good chemical stability and high abundance of B^{10} isotope, thereby B_4C_p/Al composites have been attracting much more attention in various structural applications especially in nuclear industries [1–3]. Among various fabrication methods, casting is considered to be the most cost-effective approach for large-scale production of Al matrix composites (AMCs). Direct addition of B_4C into molten Al melts, however, is rather challenging due to the poor wettability between Al and B_4C [4]. In order to overcome the above problem, Ti or Zr containing salts (K_2TiF_6 or K_2ZrF_6) are usually used to promote the incorporation of B_4C particles into molten Al (alloys), since TiB_2 (or ZrB_2) layer can be

in situ formed on B_4C surface via an interface reaction of $[Ti] (Zr) + [B] (from B_4C) \rightarrow TiB_2 (ZrB_2)$, which can effectively improve the wettability between B_4C and liquid Al. $Al-B_4C-K_2TiF_6 (K_2ZrF_6)$ system has been widely used to fabricate B_4C_p/Al composites through conventional mechanical stirring casting method [5–7].

It is well known that an ultrasound assisted casting (UAC) method has been widely used in the fabrication of in-situ or ex-situ particle reinforced AMCs, since ultrasound in molten Al can give rise to some unique effects such as acoustic cavitation as well as acoustic streaming and these effects can significantly promote the formation of in-situ formed particles, improve the particle dispersity in the Al matrix and further increase the mechanical properties of AMCs [8,9]. Recently, the UAC method has been used in our research to fabricate

B_4C_p/Al composites using $Al(liquid)-B_4C-K_2TiF_6$ system [10]. It was found that ultrasound could lead to the rapid formation of a homogeneous and compact TiB_2 layer on B_4C surface as well as improve the distribution of B_4C particles in the matrix. Accordingly, the mechanical properties of composites were effectively increased [10]. It should be noted that previous research clearly showed that the Ti addition could influence the interface reaction between Al and B_4C and further influence the microstructure as well as the mechanical properties of composites [11]. Thereby, it can be inferred that the B content in molten Al should also affect the interface reaction, the microstructure, as well as the mechanical properties of composites. So far, previous research focused on the effects of Ti and Zr elements on the interface reactions, whereas the research about the production of B_4C_p/Al composites using $Al(liquid)-B_4C-K_2TiF_6$ system with the addition of B element via UAC method has never been reported.

In this research, we proposed a novel approach to prepare the B_4C_p/Al composites with $Al(liquid)-B_4C-K_2TiF_6$ system by adding different contents of KBF_4 which provided B element via UAC method. The reaction mechanism of $Al(liquid)-B_4C-K_2TiF_6-KBF_4$ system was studied, and the effects of B element addition on the microstructure and mechanical properties of B_4C_p/Al composites were also investigated. A new approach was proposed to optimize the interface reactions and provide some guidance for the manufacture of B_4C_p/Al composites.

2 Experimental

2.1 Preparation of B_4C_p/Al composites

Commercially pure Al (99.7% purity) and B_4C particles (99.9% purity) with an average size of 10 μm were used as the matrix and reinforcement, respectively. The addition amount of B_4C was 10 wt.% and K_2TiF_6 (99.8% purity) with the Ti/ B_4C mass ratio of 0.13 was used to improve the wettability. Firstly, the B_4C particles were blended with K_2TiF_6 and preheated at 200 °C for 30 min. Then, the Al ingot was melted in a graphite crucible in an electrical resistance furnace. When the temperature of pure Al melt reached and remained stable at 800 °C, the preheated mixture of B_4C and

K_2TiF_6 was added into the melt. In the meantime, high-intensity ultrasound (SONICS, USA) was introduced into the melt through a Nb alloy probe with a diameter of 2.54 cm. The power of the ultrasonic generator was 1.6 kW and the frequency was 20 kHz. After a 5 min ultrasonic treatment, the melt was poured into a steel mold to form an ingot. This sample was referred to as Sample 1. Under the same fabricating condition, two groups of KBF_4 (99.8% purity) added samples were produced, the addition amounts of KBF_4 followed the KBF_4/K_2TiF_6 molar ratios of 1 and 2, and the two samples were referred to as Sample 2 and Sample 3, respectively. The compositions of the samples are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1 Composition of samples

Sample No.	B_4C content/wt. %	K_2TiF_6 content (Ti/ B_4C mass ratio)	KBF_4 content (KBF_4/K_2TiF_6 molar ratio)
1	10	0.13	–
2	10	0.13	1
3	10	0.13	2

2.2 Sample characterization

The phase in the three samples was identified by X-ray diffraction (XRD, Bruker, D8 Advance) using Cu $K\alpha$ radiation at 40 kV and 40 mA and a scan rate of 0.2 and 0.033 (°)/s, respectively. The interface products between B_4C and Al in Sample 1 were analyzed using transmission electron microscope (TEM, FEI Talos F200X), by which the high angle annular dark-field (HAADF) image, the bright-field (BF) image, the energy dispersive spectroscopy (EDS) data and the selected area electron diffraction (SAED) patterns of interface products were obtained. The microstructure of samples was examined by scanning electron microscope (SEM, s4800) equipped with EDS and field emission scanning electron microscope (FESEM MAIA3 LMH). In addition, samples were deeply etched with 2.5 vol.% HF for 10 min with the aim of revealing the three-dimensional (3D) morphology of interface.

2.3 Mechanical properties tests

The hardness (Brinell HBW, ball diameter 5 mm) of each sample was obtained by using a Brinell tester (HB-300, Huayin, Yantai, China)

under a load of 2452 N for 30 s. Six individual measurements with a 4 mm interval were carried out to evaluate the microstructural homogeneity and further obtain the average hardness values of the samples. Flat tensile samples with the gauge length of 20 mm, width of 4 mm and thickness of 3.5 mm were obtained from each sample by using a wire-electrode machine. The tensile tests were performed at room temperature using a tensile machine (CMT5305, MTS, USA) with a constant cross-head speed of 0.5 mm/min. Four individual measurements were carried out for each sample to obtain the average values of ultimate tensile strength (UTS), yield strength (YS) and elongation (EL), and based on the four measurements, the tensile properties stability of the three samples could also be evaluated.

3 Results

3.1 Phase and microstructure

Figure 1 illustrates the XRD patterns of the samples. It can be observed that, in addition to Al and B₄C, TiB₂ and Al₃BC peaks were detected in the three samples, indicating that an interfacial reaction between B₄C and liquid Al containing Ti (B) took place and the related reaction products (Al₃BC, TiB₂ and AlB₂) were generated [11,12]. It should be noted that TiB₂ and AlB₂ were hardly to be distinguished via XRD test since the lattice structure of AlB₂ was very close to that of TiB₂. Figure 2(a) illustrates a typical HAADF image of B₄C_p/Al interface in Sample 1, in which two different parts can be seen: a bright layer close to Al and a dark layer near B₄C. The EDS mapping results showed that the bright layer was concentrated with Ti and contained a small amount of B, and the corresponding SAED pattern confirmed that the bright layer was TiB₂. Apart from the TiB₂ layer, a dark sublayer close to B₄C particle can also be found. The EDS mapping results indicated that the dark sublayer was enriched with Al and contained trace amount of C. The SAED pattern in Area II confirmed that the irregular layer directly contacted to B₄C was Al₃BC.

Figure 3 shows the microstructure of the three samples with different B contents. In Sample 1, it was found that some B₄C particle clusters existed in the matrix (Fig. 3(a)). At higher magnification, an

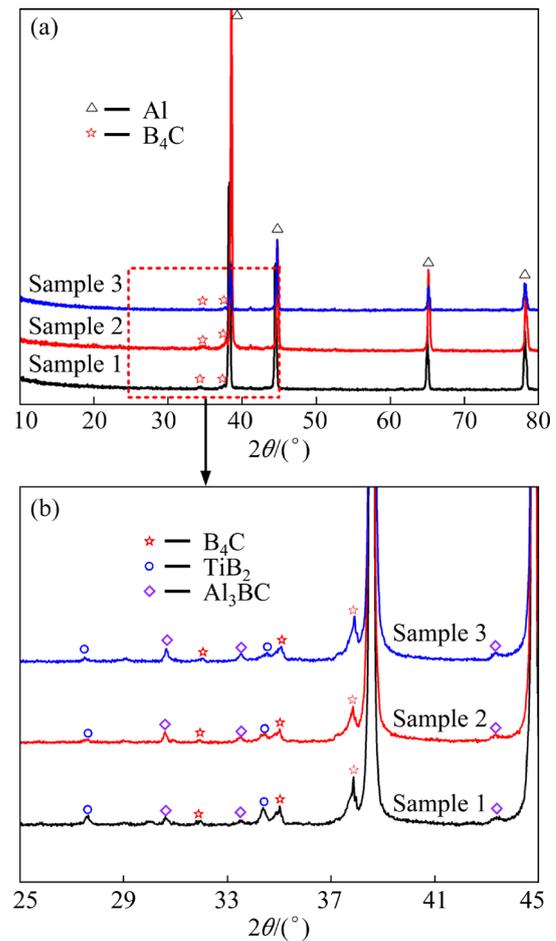


Fig. 1 XRD patterns of three samples

obvious reaction layer was observed on B₄C surface, and the related EDS mapping analyses proved that an in-situ formed TiB₂ layer was located at the interface (Fig. 3(b)). In Sample 2, the distribution of B₄C particles became more uniform (Fig. 3(c)) compared with Sample 1 and a small amount of AlB₂ particles which possessed a blocky shape with several micrometers in size, were found in the matrix (Fig. 3(d)). The corresponding EDS mapping analyses showed that the amount of TiB₂ particles on B₄C surface became less and some of which existed in the matrix. In Sample 3, it was clear that B₄C particles were distributed uniformly in the matrix and the microstructure of which was the most homogeneous (Fig. 3(f)) among the three samples. More AlB₂ particles were found in the matrix and some B₄C particles were covered by a thick Al₃BC layer in Sample 3 (Fig. 3(g)). In addition, the related EDS results combined with microstructural analyses showed that the dispersion of Ti element was improved and the amount of Ti element on B₄C surface was rather low, indicating

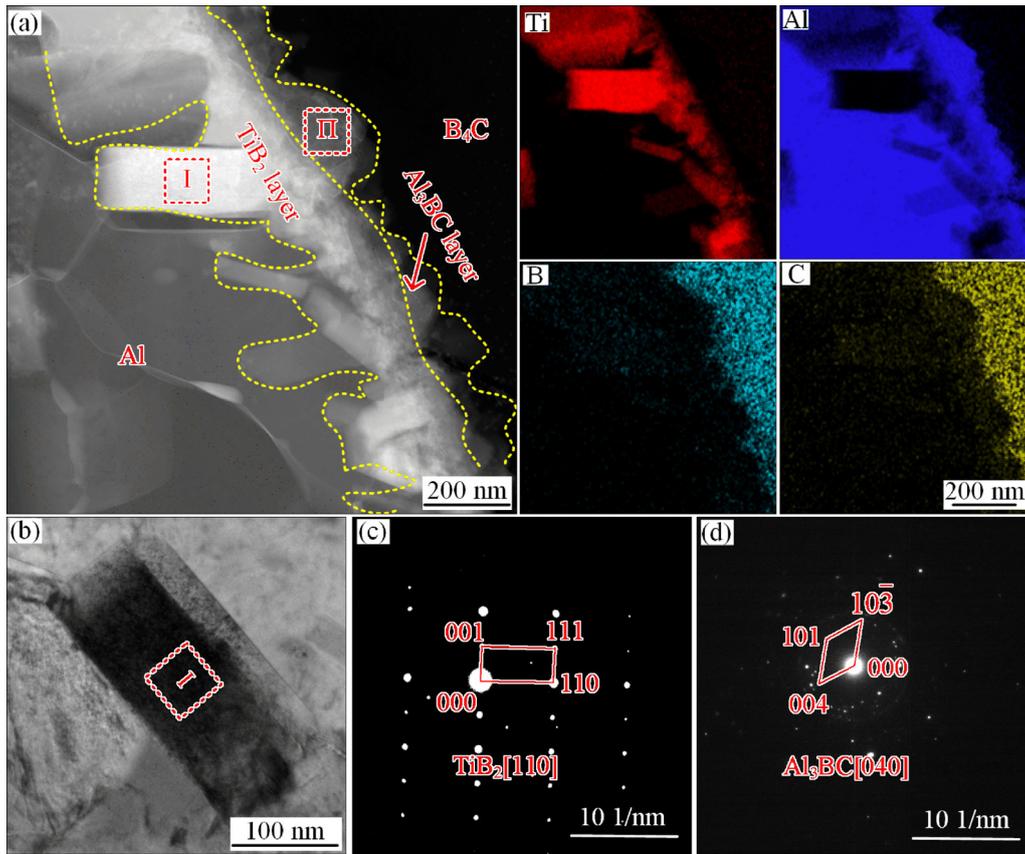


Fig. 2 HAADF image of Sample 1 (a), BF image of TiB₂ particles (b) and SAED patterns from Areas I (c) and II (d)

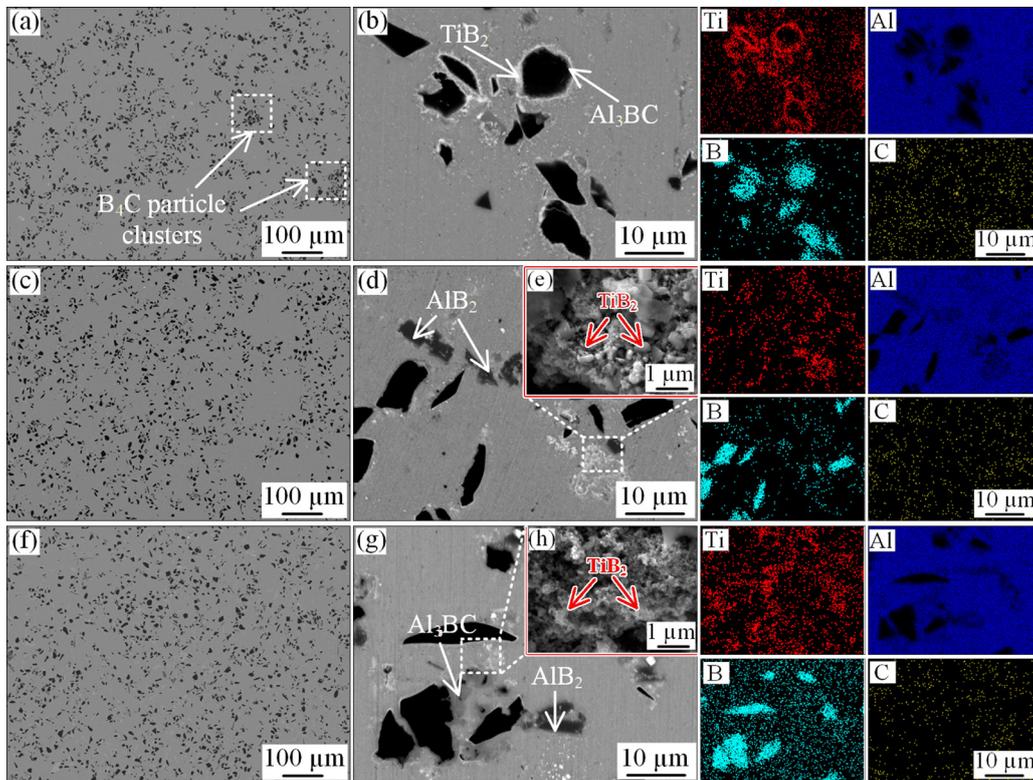


Fig. 3 SEM images and corresponding EDS analyses of B₄C_p/Al composites: (a, b) Sample 1; (c–e) Sample 2; (f–h) Sample 3

that more small-sized TiB_2 particles were distributed in the matrix. The above findings clearly indicated that adding KBF_4 into $\text{Al}(\text{liquid})\text{-B}_4\text{C-K}_2\text{TiF}_6$, on the one hand, was able to enhance the homogeneity of B_4C particles in the matrix, on the other hand, could promote more small-sized TiB_2 particles to distribute in the matrix from B_4C surface.

Figure 4 showed more details of TiB_2 particles obtained by FESEM in the three samples after they were deeply etched. In sample 1, most of the TiB_2 particles distributed on the B_4C surface and the TiB_2 particles presented in the matrix were rather limited. The presence of TiB_2 can be observed on the surface of most of the B_4C particles, and only a small portion of the B_4C particles were directly exposed to the matrix (as marked by arrows in Fig. 4(a)). At higher magnification, it was clear that the B_4C particles were surrounded by a contact layer which was mainly composed of abundant hexagonal TiB_2 particles and the EDS result in Fig. 4(d) proved that the hexagonal block on B_4C surface was TiB_2 . In Sample 2, more B_4C particles were directly exposed to the matrix compared with Sample 1 (as marked by arrows in Fig. 4(e)) and some TiB_2 aggregates were observed in the matrix. At higher magnification, it can be found that the TiB_2 particles mainly exhibited irregular shape and only a small number of hexagonal TiB_2 could be

observed, which may be ascribed to the incomplete growth of TiB_2 particles caused by the short reaction time. As to Sample 3, almost all B_4C particles were exposed to the matrix (as marked by arrows in Fig. 4(i)) and details of the TiB_2 particles presented in the matrix were displayed in Fig. 4(j) and Fig. 4(k). It was clear that nearly all of the TiB_2 particles presented irregular shape and hexagonal TiB_2 particles were rarely found, which indicated that more TiB_2 particles were formed by the reaction between K_2TiF_6 and KBF_4 .

3.2 Interfacial characteristics of B_4C in samples

As mentioned above, the $\text{B}_4\text{C}_p/\text{Al}$ interface features had a close relationship with B content. To further reveal the interface evolution of the three samples, FESEM test was conducted on the three deeply etched samples and the results are shown in Fig. 5. In Sample 1, a thick and continuous TiB_2 layer was found on B_4C surface (Fig. 5(a)). After deeply etching treatment, it was found that a continuous and compact layer composed of TiB_2 particles exhibiting a faceted morphology with a sub-micro size was formed on B_4C surface (Fig. 5(b) and Fig. 5(c)), and the similar phenomenon has also been reported by LAI et al [13]. For Sample 2, a TiB_2 layer on B_4C surface was still presented with thinner thickness and smaller size. As to Sample 3, a small portion of B_4C surface was eroded by liquid

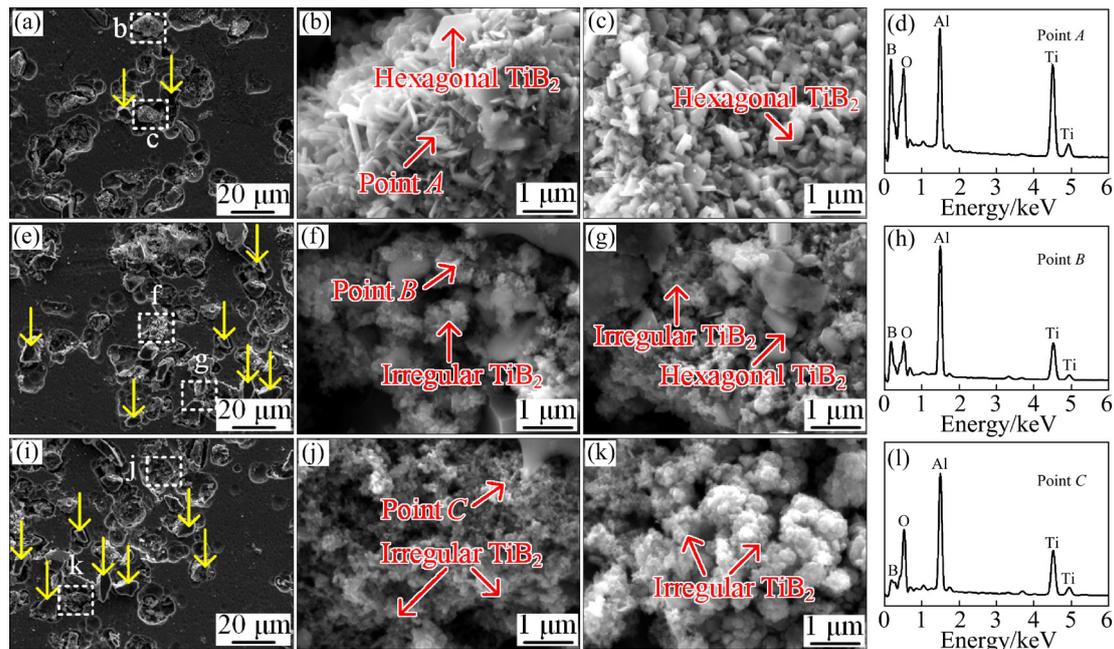


Fig. 4 FESEM images and corresponding EDS analyses of deeply etched samples: (a–d) Sample 1; (e–h) Sample 2; (i–l) Sample 3

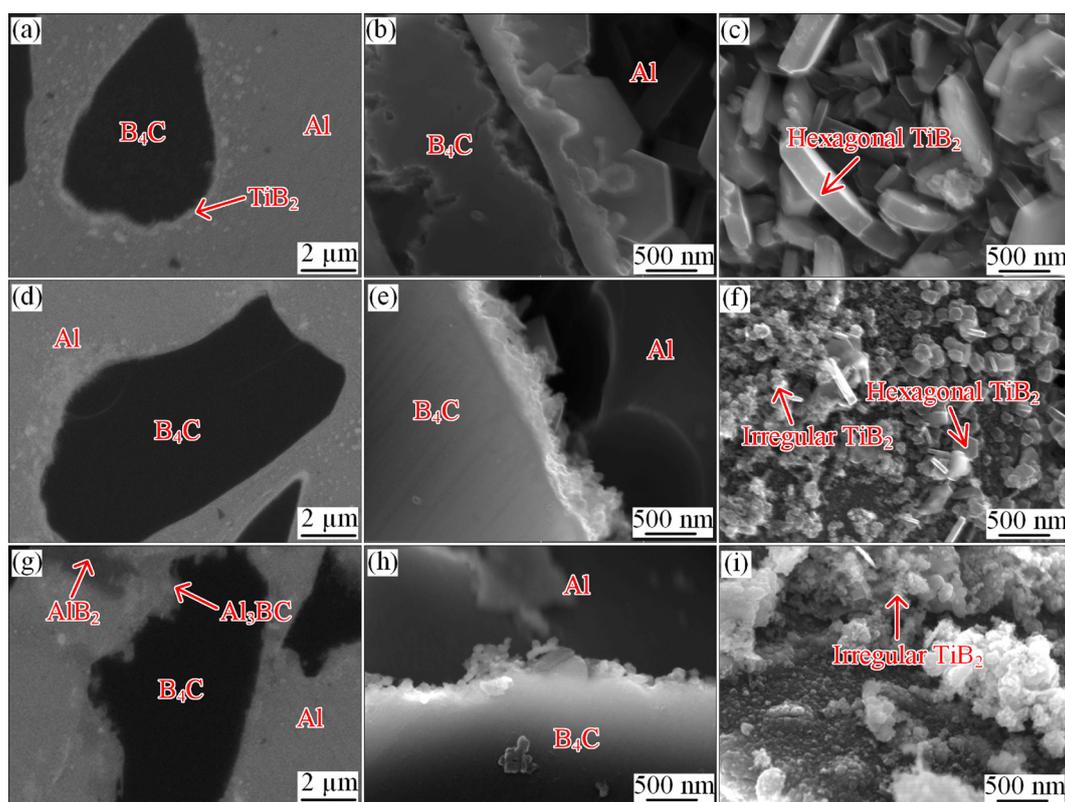


Fig. 5 FESEM images and related interfacial analyses of deeply etched samples: (a–c) Sample 1; (d–f) Sample 2; (g–i) Sample 3

Al and an obvious Al_3BC layer was found on B_4C surface (Fig. 5(g)). Furthermore, it could be found that the TiB_2 layer was composed of nano-sized TiB_2 particles with irregular shape (Fig. 5(h) and Fig. 5(i)). The above results further proved that the addition of KBF_4 could alter the $\text{B}_4\text{C}_p/\text{Al}$ interface.

3.3 Mechanical properties of $\text{B}_4\text{C}_p/\text{Al}$ composites

The Brinell hardness results of the samples are shown in Fig. 6. Figure 6(a) shows the Brinell hardness of six points in the three samples and Fig. 6(b) displays the average Brinell hardness values of the three samples. In Sample 1, the values of hardness ranged from 26.1 to 31.8, while in Sample 2 and Sample 3, the values of hardness ranged from 31.9 to 34.5 and 33.8 to 36.6, respectively. It was obvious that the hardness values of Sample 2 and Sample 3 fluctuated within smaller ranges in comparison with Sample 1, which suggested that the microstructures of Sample 2 and Sample 3 were more homogeneous than that of Sample 1. Moreover, the average values of hardness increased from 28.2 to 33.2 and further increased to 35.8 with increasing B content.

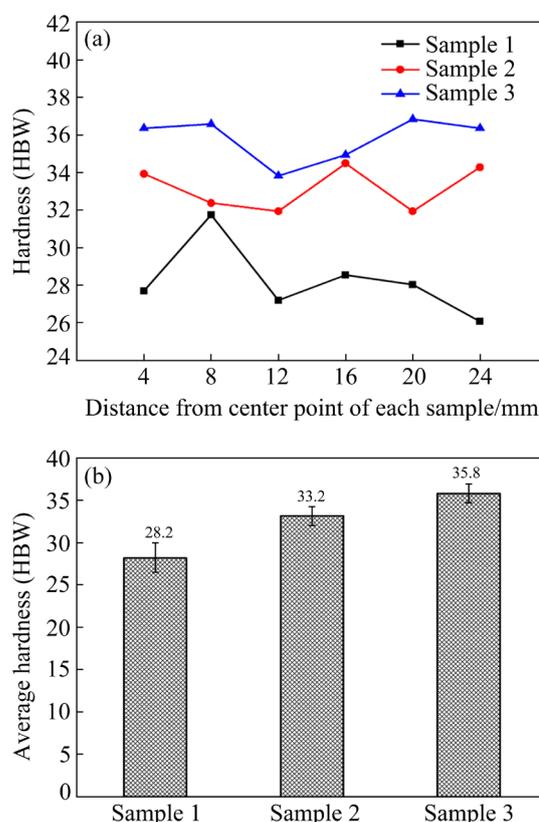


Fig. 6 Brinell hardness of six points in three samples (a) and average Brinell hardness values of three samples (b)

The tensile test results of the three samples are presented in Fig. 7. The typical tensile curves and the average values of YS, UTS and El of samples are shown in Fig. 7(a) and Fig. 7(b), respectively. The average values of YS, UTS and El of the samples were 62.0 MPa, 98.5 MPa, 12.3%, 59.3 MPa, 96.8 MPa, 17.3% and 62.5 MPa, 108.3 MPa, 17.8%, respectively. It was clear that both the YS and the UTS of Sample 2 were slightly decreased while the El was enhanced significantly (improved by 40%) in comparison with Sample 1. As to Sample 3, both the UTS (improved by 10%) and ductility (improved by 45%) were enhanced with the addition of KBF_4 . In order to evaluate the tensile properties stability of the samples, the YS,

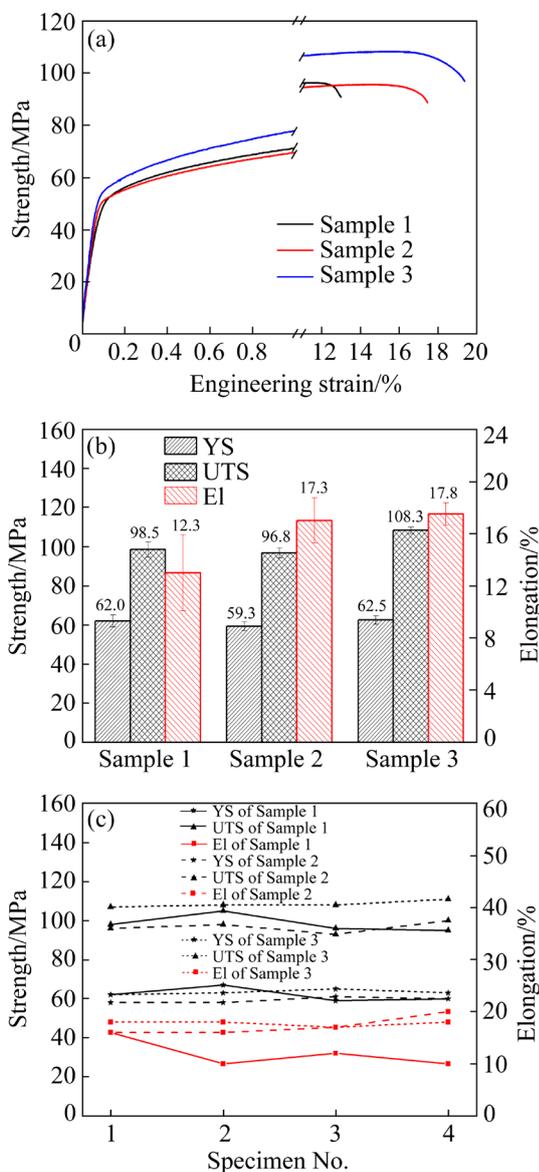


Fig. 7 Tensile test results of $\text{B}_4\text{C}_p/\text{Al}$ composites: (a) Tensile curves; (b) Mechanical properties; (c) YS, UTS and El of four specimens of three samples

UTS as well as El of four individual specimens for each sample are summarized and the corresponding results are displayed in Fig. 7(c). The YS, UTS and El of Sample 1 ranged from 59 to 67 MPa, 95 to 105 MPa, 10.2% to 16.8% while the YS, UTS and El of Sample 2 ranged from 58 to 61 MPa, 93 to 100 MPa, 16.0% to 20.0%. As to Sample 3, the YS, UTS and El fluctuated within small ranges (62 to 65 MPa, 107 to 111 MPa, 17.0% to 18.2%), which indicated that Sample 3 possessed the best stability among the three samples due to its most homogeneous microstructure.

3.4 Tensile fracture surface

The morphologies showing tensile fracture surfaces of the three samples are displayed in Fig. 8. The dimples in Sample 2 and Sample 3 were larger than those in Sample 1, suggesting that Sample 2 and Sample 3 exhibited better ductility due to the more uniform microstructure compared with Sample 1. Furthermore, an intact TiB_2 layer could be observed on B_4C surface and micropores were rarely found at the $\text{B}_4\text{C}_p/\text{Al}$ interface in Sample 1 (Fig. 8(b)). As to Sample 2 and Sample 3, some tiny pores were found at the interfaces, which indicated that the B_4C particles in a weak bonding layer with matrix would act as crack initiation sites, leading to the decrease in tensile strength. The addition of KBF_4 weakened the interface to some content, but induced the presence of more small-sized TiB_2 in the matrix and more homogeneous microstructure of composites. As a result, the tensile strength of composites firstly decreased and then increased as the addition of KBF_4 was increased.

4 Discussion

Based on the above results of microstructural evolution and mechanical properties of composites, it is clear that the B addition could optimize the distribution of B_4C and TiB_2 particles in the matrix and further induce the improvement in both strength and ductility of composites. In order to study the effects of B addition on the microstructure and mechanical properties of $\text{B}_4\text{C}_p/\text{Al}$ composites, the reaction mechanism of $\text{Al}(\text{liquid})-\text{B}_4\text{C}-\text{K}_2\text{TiF}_6-\text{KBF}_4$ system in ultrasonic field should be clarified.

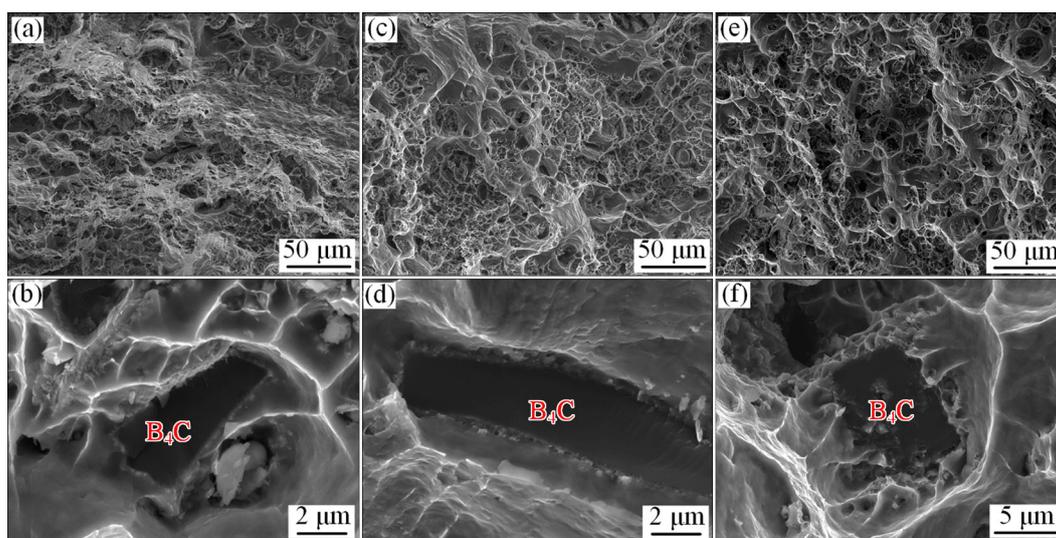


Fig. 8 Morphologies showing tensile fracture surfaces of three samples: (a, b) Sample 1; (c, d) Sample 2; (e, f) Sample 3

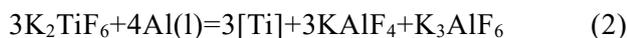
4.1 Reaction mechanism of Al–B₄C–K₂TiF₆–KBF₄ system

According to Refs. [14–16] which reported the reaction mechanism of Al(liquid)–B₄C–Ti system as well as the above experimental results, the potential reactions in the Al(liquid)–B₄C–K₂TiF₆–KBF₄ system can be deduced below.

When B₄C particles contact with liquid Al, Al₃BC and free [B] can be formed according to the reaction below:



As K₂TiF₆ and KBF₄ are added in the liquid Al, the [Ti] and [B] can be released from the two salts via the following reactions:



Accordingly, an Al(liquid)–[Ti]–[B] system can be obtained, in which the possible reactions are presented below:



Among the three reaction products, TiB₂ (–189.851 kJ/mol) has the lowest Gibbs free energy compared with Al₃Ti (–4.614 kJ/mol) and AlB₂ (–136.040 kJ/mol) at 800 °C [10]. Thereby, Reaction (6) can take place most easily from the view point of thermodynamics. In the Al(liquid)–B₄C–K₂TiF₆–KBF₄ system, it should be noted that

the [B] can be provided from B₄C and KBF₄, respectively. Thereby, it is reasonable that the addition amount of KBF₄ can directly influence the reaction sequence and further affect the phase formation (TiB₂, AlB₂ and Al₃BC).

4.2 Effect of B addition on microstructure of B₄C_p/Al composites

The reaction process of Al–B₄C–K₂TiF₆–KBF₄ system with regard to the addition amount of KBF₄ can be illuminated via the schematic diagram in Fig. 9, in which a B₄C particle is regarded as a sphere. For the system without KBF₄ addition (as shown in Fig. 9(a)), B₄C particles can easily enter into molten Al since the Al₂O₃ layer formed on the liquid Al surface is dissolved by the reaction products produced in Reaction (2) which improves the wettability between B₄C and Al [17]. Once the B₄C particle is exposed to the liquid Al, an Al₃BC layer can be formed on the B₄C surface. In the meantime, free [B] which diffuses into the adjacent liquid Al through the growing Al₃BC layer can easily combine with [Ti] to form TiB₂ phase which mainly locates on the B₄C surface. Our previous research clearly proved that the usage of ultrasound was able to lead to the rapid formation of a compact and continuous TiB₂ layer [10]. Hence, the interfacial reaction layer in Al(liquid)–B₄C–K₂TiF₆ system irradiated with ultrasound is composed of an inside Al₃BC layer and an outside TiB₂ layer. Due to the existence of TiB₂ layer which acts as a protective layer, Reaction (1) can be effectively inhibited.

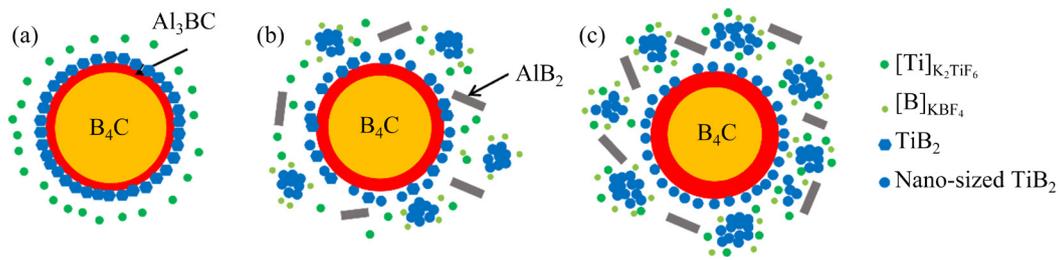


Fig. 9 Schematic diagrams of reaction mechanism with different contents of KBF_4 : (a) K_2TiF_6 ; (b) $\text{KBF}_4/\text{K}_2\text{TiF}_6$ molar ratio of 1; (c) $\text{KBF}_4/\text{K}_2\text{TiF}_6$ molar ratio of 2

After a certain amount of KBF_4 ($\text{KBF}_4/\text{K}_2\text{TiF}_6$ molar ratio of 1) is introduced into the reaction system (as shown in Fig. 9(b)), $[\text{Ti}]$ and $[\text{B}]$ release from the molten salts via reduction reaction and diffuse into Al melt across the salts/Al interface. The concentrations of $[\text{Ti}]$ and $[\text{B}]$ reach the saturability rapidly in molten Al since the application of ultrasound [18], on the one hand, can facilitate the dissolution rate of $[\text{Ti}]$ and $[\text{B}]$ from the K_2TiF_6 and KBF_4 ; on the other hand, can make $[\text{Ti}]$ and $[\text{B}]$ have an opportunity to contact and reach saturability rapidly in molten Al. Then, around 50% of $[\text{Ti}]$ combines with $[\text{B}]$ to form small-sized TiB_2 particles in the matrix via a precipitation-growth mechanism. Finally, the residual $[\text{Ti}]$ combines with $[\text{B}]$ from B_4C to generate TiB_2 on B_4C surface, thereby both the thickness and continuity of TiB_2 layer on B_4C surface are decreased. Accordingly, the protective effect of TiB_2 layer is reduced, leading to the formation of AlB_2 .

With the further increase of KBF_4 ($\text{KBF}_4/\text{K}_2\text{TiF}_6$ molar ratio of 2, as shown in Fig. 9(c)), nearly all the $[\text{Ti}]$ is consumed by KBF_4 to form small-sized TiB_2 particles in the matrix. Thereby, B_4C particles are located in a $[\text{Ti}]$ -poor environment and the formation of protective TiB_2 layer on the B_4C surface is rather limited, leading to the decomposition of B_4C and the generation of Al_3BC and AlB_2 in the matrix.

An interesting finding in this research is that adding B in the Al– B_4C – K_2TiF_6 system can significantly make the B_4C particles distribute more uniformly in the matrix using UAC method. According to MIRIHANAGE et al [19], the presence of nano particles in molten Al alloy, on the one hand, can enhance the ultrasonic cavitation effect since the nano particles can act as heterogeneous nuclei for cavitation bubble formation, on

the other hand, can increase the melt streaming which results from the improved cavitation bubble activity. In this research, the addition of B can lead to the introduction of more small-sized TiB_2 particles into the matrix in the ultrasonic fields, and these small-sized TiB_2 particles can significantly intensify the ultrasonic stirring effect, which can break up the B_4C particle clusters and make the B_4C particles disperse in the matrix more homogeneously.

4.3 Effect of B addition on mechanical properties of composites

The above results clearly showed that the addition of B was beneficial to improving both the hardness and mechanical properties of the composites. After KBF_4 addition, more small-sized TiB_2 particles were formed and dispersed in the matrix rather than on the B_4C surface, which could increase the hardness of composites. It is well known that the reinforced particle with nano size (below 100 nm) has Orowan strengthening effect [20,21]. Thereby, more small-sized TiB_2 particles can lead to higher strength of composites. Besides, coefficient of thermal expansion (CTE) mismatch strengthening effect induced by the TiB_2 particles can also lead to the improvement in strengthening of composites [22,23]. However, it should be noted that the formation of TiB_2 layer on B_4C surface was inhibited, which reduced the strength of the composites to some extent since the TiB_2 layer was estimated to have a positive effect on the mechanical properties of the composites [11,24]. This is proposed to be the reason why the strength of Sample 2 decreased slightly compared to Sample 1. Since a large number of small-sized TiB_2 particles were generated in the matrix in Sample 3, the matrix can be further strengthened even though the $\text{B}_4\text{C}_p/\text{Al}$

interface may become weak. Hence, the YS and UTS of the samples firstly decreased and then increased with increasing [B] content. In addition, better spatial distribution of B₄C particles was conducive to the enhancement of EI as well as the stability of composites.

5 Conclusions

(1) The thickness of TiB₂ layer on B₄C surface was decreased and more small-sized TiB₂ particles were induced into the matrix with increasing B content. The distribution of B₄C particles was also improved with the addition of KBF₄.

(2) The addition of KBF₄ could influence the reaction sequence and the phase formation of the composites, hence more small-sized TiB₂ particles were distributed in the matrix, which led to the intensification of cavitation as well as flow velocity and finally led to the homogeneous distribution of B₄C particles.

(3) The hardness and the mechanical properties of composites were both improved with the addition of KBF₄ due to the presence of TiB₂ particles in the matrix, and the stability of the composites was improved significantly due to the B addition induced homogeneous microstructure.

Acknowledgments

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B 元素添加对超声辅助铸造法制备 B₄C_p/Al 复合材料显微组织和力学性能的影响

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摘 要: 通过在 Al–B₄C–K₂TiF₆ 反应体系中添加 KBF₄ 引入 B 元素, 采用超声辅助铸造法制备 B₄C_p/Al 复合材料。研究 B 元素添加对复合材料显微组织、力学性能及界面反应机理的影响。实验结果表明, 添加 B 元素可以改变 B₄C_p/Al 的界面结构, 使更多的小粒径 TiB₂ 颗粒分布在基体中, 因此空化和声流效应进一步增强, 熔体中的 B₄C 团簇被破碎, 使复合材料组织更加均匀、综合力学性能得到改善。

关键词: B 元素; B₄C_p/Al 复合材料; 显微组织; 力学性能; 界面反应; 超声波; 铸造法

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