

Wear Behavior and Tribological Evolution of High Entropy Alloys

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Abstract—High entropy alloy are equiatomic and non-equiatomic complex concentrated/ multicomponent alloys which are recognized due to their distinctive mechanical and tribological properties. A unique combination of excellent mechanical and tribological properties of high entropy alloys makes them promising candidate for variety of industrial and structural applications. The wear resistance needs to be examined for these complex concentrated alloys as only few numbers of reports and investigation are available in the field of new advanced HEAs materials. In the current research work, we identified the crucial achievements and breakthrough in the wear and tribological investigations of high entropy alloy and HEA based composites in recent years. This review article investigates the tribological behaviors of multicomponent alloys /high entropy alloys and HEA based composites which play an important role and draw a considerable attention in the present era. In view of recent developments on tribological and wear related mechanisms of HEAs for different type of industrial and structural applications, microstructure, chemical compositions, and mechanical properties are explained and reviewed in this review article.

Index Terms— High entropy alloys, Wear behavior, Tribological properties, Mechanical Properties.

I. INTRODUCTION

The emergence and evolution of high entropy alloys and HEA based composites reported novel properties with improved mechanical performance compared to commercial alloys and traditional composites [1]. High entropy alloys based on the concept of incorporating five or more metallic elements ranging from 5 to 35 percent in atomic percentage to exhibit high configurational entropy of stable solid solutions for innovative applications. Recent advancements in the field of high entropy alloys with enhanced properties have captured the attention of researchers in developing hi tech future materials. The high entropy alloys (HEAs) have gained much popularity as a result of their vast range of mechanical, tribological and metallurgical properties over the conventional/ commercial alloys. The comprehensive effects of multicomponent alloys creates new possibilities to utilize them in variety of applications in different industrial and defence sectors, where light and strong material is always preferred [2]. The main benefits of complex concentrated alloys that they can generate vast variety of microstructures and can contributed crucially in the discovery of new scientific materials with attractive tribo-mechanical

properties. [3]. In this manuscript, several combination of newly developed complex concentrated alloys concerning the tribological performance and wear related mechanisms discussed in the literature. The studies revealed the presence of hard particles in the complex microstructure is responsible for improve wear resistance in the family of high entropy alloys.

II. FRICTION AND WEAR OF BEHAVIOR OF HEA UNDER DRY SLIDING CONDITION

The high entropy materials fabricated and invented for specific applications must exhibit higher wear resistance at intense loading applications without showing deformation or fracture during implementation in longer periods. Poulia et al [4] examined the dry-sliding wear behavior of Mo₂₀Ta₂₀W₂₀Nb₂₀V₂₀ of multicomponent alloy under different experimental conditions. The test analysis revealed high wear resistance of Mo₂₀Ta₂₀W₂₀Nb₂₀V₂₀ when compared with a commercial super alloy. All the test results exhibited improved behavior of the high entropy alloy. Xiaotao et al [5] investigated the wear mechanism, microstructure and phase configuration of Al_{0.5}CoCrCuFeNiB_x high entropy alloy fabricated by vacuum arc melting in the argon atmosphere. The combination of hard borides and FCC matrix phase greatly enhanced the wear properties of the high entropy alloy. The analysis revealed that mechanism of wear is converted into oxidative wear from delamination wear while addition of boron content in the high entropy alloy. Yang et al [6] analyzed the effects of boron on microstructural and wear mechanism of FeCoCrNiAlB_x high entropy alloy coatings synthesized by laser cladding technique. The coatings shows exceptional improved wear resistance by incorporating boron in the high entropy alloy coating. The addition of boron changed adhesive wear to abrasive wear and hardness also improved of high entropy alloy coating. Yadav et al [7] utilized the soft dispersoid such as Pb and Bi in the AlCrFeMnV) and (CuCrFeTiZn) high entropy alloy matrix. The CuCrFeTiZn)_{100-x}Pb_x and (AlCrFeMnV)_{100-x}Bi_x high entropy composites fabricated through powder metallurgy process to analyzed wear behaviour at different test parameters. The results showed that introduction of soft dispersoid and high hardness significantly improved the microstructure of the HEA composites. Zhou et al [8] adopted the powder metallurgy route to investigate wear behavior and microstructural orientation of newly developed

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(FeCoCrNi)_{1-x}(WC)_x multicomponent composites followed by SPS technique. The presence of Wc particles and Cr carbide produced strengthening effect and combination of adhesive and abrasive wear mechanism obtained. Gasan and Lokcu [9] studied the microstructure, hardness and wear resistance of Al_xCoCrFeMo_{0.5}Ni (x=0-2) HEAs using ball-on-disk testing machine. The results demonstrate that enhancement in percentage of aluminium improves the wear and tribological properties of the high entropy alloy. Yadav et al [10] studied microstructural and tribological properties of CuCrFeTiZn multicomponent alloy and (CuCrFeTiZn)_{100-x}Pbx composites fabricated through MA and SPS technique. The high entropy alloy with 10% Pb showed 95 percent less wear than base HEA alloy. The high entropy alloy containing Pb proved excellent candidate for bearing applications. Liu et al [11] fabricated HEA composites using Fe₅₀Mn₃₀Co₁₀Cr₁₀ as matrix and nano particulates of graphene as reinforcement material. A friction and wear tester was utilized to execute the wear tests at a room temperature and analysis showed that the coefficients of friction (COF) of high entropy composites were reduced drastically in comparison Fe₅₀Mn₃₀Co₁₀Cr₁₀ matrix HEA. The results revealed enhancement in the tribological properties of the fabricated composites when compared to the matrix. Löbel et al [12] fabricated equimolar AlCoCrFeNiTi HEA and AlCoCrFeNiTi composites reinforced with solid lubricant MoS₂ in order to assess wear resistance and reduced coefficient of friction. AlCoCrFeNiTi HEA reinforced with 10 wt % MoS₂ exhibit improved wear resistance and reduced COF at different temperatures. The high entropy composites are considered decisive material for bearing and other wear protection applications. Yadav et al [13] analyzed the tribological behavior of AlCrFeMnV BCC alloy as a matrix along with Bi reinforced with TiB₂ solid lubricants. Addition TiB₂ and uniformly dispersed Bi particles leads to 85% decrease in wear rate compared to base alloy. Softening and melting Bi particles acts as a lubricating film between the sliding bodies. Mathiou et al [14] examined the microstructural and wear behavior of MoTaNbZrTi high-entropy alloy employing a ball-on disc machine at room temperature at three different sliding distances. The wear properties of complex concentrated alloy were compared with different high entropy alloys and results showed the exceptional improvements in tribological properties of MoTaNbZrTi high entropy alloy. Nong et al [15] fabricated AlCrFeNiTi and AlCrFeNiTiMn_{0.5} through vacuum arc melting in argon atmosphere and reported enhancement in wear and oxidation resistance of high entropy alloys. It is obvious from the studies, that with dissimilarity in grain structure, phase constitution and elemental compositions of solid solutions of HEA, different tribological and metallurgical properties can be achieved.

III. EFFECT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS ON WEAR MECHANISM & RESULTS

Although, high entropy alloys showed the potential of higher strength to weight ratio, while exhibiting excellent wear properties, but a watchful recognition of the conditions through investigation and understanding of tribological behavior is a main challenge for selection of elements and their evolution. Duan et al [16] studied the tribological

mechanism of AlCoCrFeNiCu HEA using pin-on-disc tests by submerging the specimen in the lubricant oil and hydrogen peroxide solution. The results confirmed that wear mechanism of AlCoCrFeNiCu affected by environmental conditions and showed low coefficient of friction against Si₃N₄ disk under lubricant oil. Yu et al [17] investigated tribological properties and wear behavior of the AlCoCrCuFeNi and AlCoCrFeNiTi_{0.5} HEAs against ZrO₂, SiC and 1Cr18Ni9Ti steel discs under hydrogen peroxide solution. High wear loss and COF observed in AlCoCrFeNiTi_{0.5}/1Cr18Ni9Ti steel discs whereas better wear properties achieved in AlCoCrFeNiTi_{0.5} alloy/SiC discs combination. Yipin et al [18] utilized hot sintering process to fabricate AlCrFeNi high entropy alloy coating on the surface of Q235 steel. Coating formation mechanism, dry sliding and oil lubrication wear tests, wear morphology of HEA films were studied. AlCrFeNi high entropy alloys coating showed excellent wear resistance while performing dry sliding and oil lubrication tests. Ma et al studied [19] the environmental effect on wear behavior of Al_{0.6}CoCrFeNi HEA under different conditions. The results demonstrated higher wear resistance in sea water compared to that in acid rain, ambient air and deionized water. The wear mass loss is higher in ambient air conditions compared to that in liquid conditions. The wear mechanisms in ambient dry conditions and deionized water conditions were abrasive wear and oxidative wear, delamination and adhesive wear. Yu et al [20] studied the tribological mechanisms of AlCoCrFeNi-M high entropy alloys at different sliding speeds under under 90% H₂O₂ solution. The studies reported the supremacy in the tribological behaviour and wear related mechanism of high entropy alloys. Yua et al [21] examined the wear mechanism of CoCrFeNiNbx high entropy alloy to utilize in high temperature applications. The effect of friction, wear and high temperature on the structure of CoCrFeNiNbx high entropy alloy analyzed. At 400 C, abrasive wear is changed into adhesive wear then at 600 c it is converted into oxidation wear and mechanical wear. Jin et al [22] synthesized the FeNiCoAlCu HEA coating through laser technique to analyze the wear behaviour at high temperature. Laser clad FeNiCoAlCu consist of dendrite microstructure with FCC and BCC phases governed by abrasive wear and oxidative wear. The emergence of oxide film and enhanced thermal stability revealed the improved wear resistance of HEA coating at high temperature. Joseph et al [23] investigated the tribological mechanism of CoCrFeMnNi and Al_xCoCrFeNi high entropy alloys at different temperature range and results were compared with AISI 304 and Inconel 718. AlCoCrFeNi HEA showed excellent wear resistance compared to other HEAs test specimen at different temperature range

IV. WEAR RESISTANCE OF HEA CLADDING/ COATING / SUBSTRATE

Tüten et al [24] investigated the sliding wear and coefficient of friction of equimolar TiTaHfNbZr high entropy thin films deposited on the Ti6Al4V substrates for orthopedic



applications. The results demonstrated improved surface protection of HEA films against wear and cracking and can be efficiently utilized in knee and hip joints. Chen et al [25] fabricated Al_{0.6}TiCrFeCoNi HEA coating through high-velocity-oxygen-fuel (HVOF) spraying in order to compute the fracture hardness and phase configurational detail. The wear behavior of coating was analyzed by using pin on disc tribometer under different temperature conditions. Huang et al [26] reported that wear properties of AZ91D magnesium alloys were improved by fabrication of Cu_{0.9}NiAlCoCrFe high entropy alloy (HEA) coating through laser cladding method. The results demonstrated that BCC solid solution phase of HEA films are mainly responsible in improvement of wear properties of HEA. The obtained mechanisms from the results were found different in HEA coating and the AZ91D substrate. The HEA coating influenced by oxidative abrasive wear and the AZ91D substrate undergoes with adhesive and abrasive wear. Wang et al [27] studied wear properties and microstructure of CuNiSiTiZr high entropy alloy synthesized by vacuum arc melting deposited on TC11 titanium alloy through electrospark CNC deposition technique. The BCC solid solution of the coating exhibit enhanced wear behavior and hardness compared TC11 substrate. Huo et al [28] analyzed the microstructural and wear properties of CoCrFeMnNbNi high entropy alloy coating was fabricated on AISI304 steel through TIG cladding technique. The microhardness and wear properties of the CoCrFeMnNbNi high entropy significantly enhanced under dry sliding wear due to the presence hard laves phase and FCC solid-solution phase. Yipin et al [29] implemented hot sintering process to fabricate AlCrFeNi high entropy alloy coating on the surface of Q235 steel. Coating formation mechanism, dry sliding and oil lubrication wear tests, wear morphology of HEA films were studied. AlCrFeNi multicomponent solid solution coating demonstrated excellent improvement in wear behavior in both dry sliding and oil lubrication tests due to presence of its hard phases. Cai et al [30] studied wear resistance, microstructure and phase composition of the Ni-Cr-Co-Ti-V high entropy alloy coating through combination of laser cladding and laser remelting processes. The results demonstrate that remelted HEA coating exhibit better wear performance due to high hardness compared to laser clad coatings. Low wear losses, Ti rich phases and high COF of BCC solid solution phase improved the wear resistance of the combination of laser cladding and laser remelting of HEA coating. Ye et al [31] implemented nanoscratch method to evaluate the friction and wear behaviour of TiZrHfNb high entropy alloy at ramping and constant load. TiZrHfNb high entropy alloy showed excellent hardness/strength and wear resistance on ramping and constant load modes. The test outcomes revealed that developed multicomponent alloy consist of reduced coefficient of friction and improved wear properties can be employed in various industrial applications. Minghong et al [32] investigated wear properties and microstructure of cast and annealed AlCoCrFeNiTi_{0.5} high entropy alloy synthesized by laser cladding technique. The investigations showed wear mass loss of HEA coatings minimized upto 92.5% and wear width decreased upto 50% compared to cast specimens. The BCC structure with solid solution formed on the annealed surface remarkably

improved the wear properties and microstructure of HEA coatings due to solute and precipitation strengthening.

V. CONCLUSION

The reported improvements in the mechanical, microstructural and tribological properties of complex concentrated alloys prove them significant attractive materials in variety of structural and industrial applications. Several compositions of HEAs exhibit enhanced wear resistance compared to traditional alloys or composites in different operating conditions. Understanding of the surface characteristics of multicomponent alloys is very important to know the wear related properties and to utilise them in commercial applications. The wear properties of complex concentrated alloys/ HEAs alloys are further required to examine for the evolution in advanced next generation materials.

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