



Wetting Behaviour of Liquid Al-Cu Alloys on Oriented Sapphire Surfaces

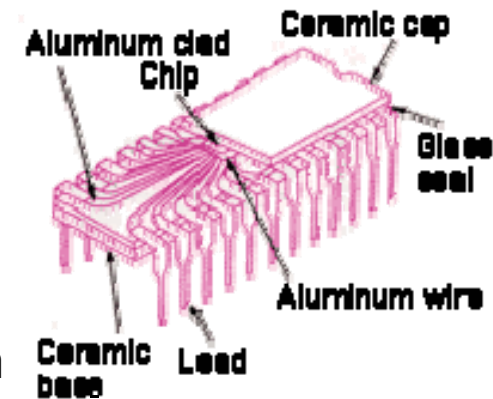
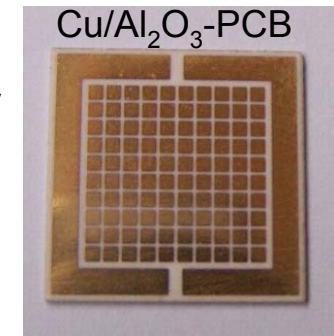
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Sitzung des AKT, Berlin, 24.03.2011



Motivation

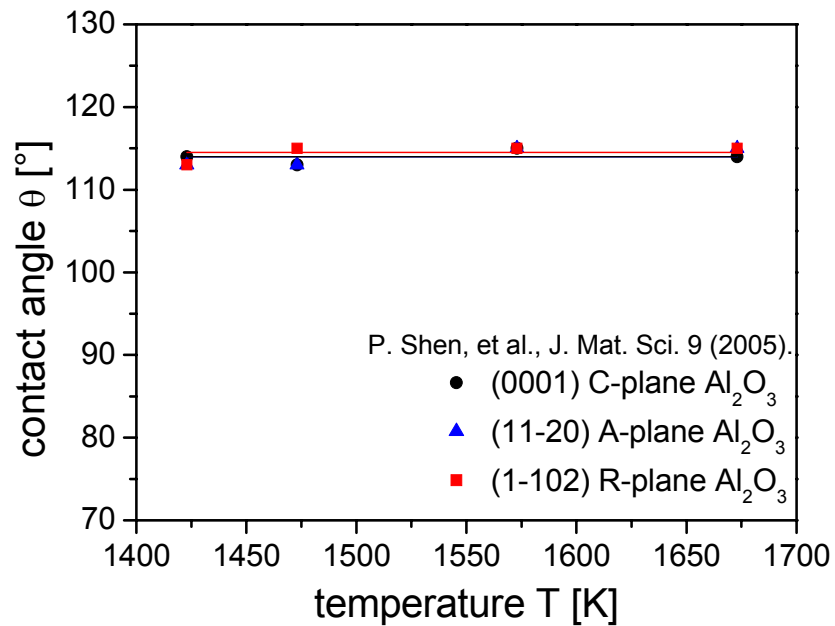
- Adhesion at M/MO-interface important for technical applications:
 - Composite materials, Microelectronics
 - Miniaturisation: System dimensions reach the order of crystallite size
- $\alpha\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3$ commonly used oxide crystal
 - Different kinds of Al_2O_3 - surfaces (anisotropy)
 - Some experiments with pure metals show anisotropy in wetting
- Al-Cu/ Al_2O_3 composites with promising properties
 - Al-Cu basis for solder materials
 - Anisotropic or isotropic wetting in the system



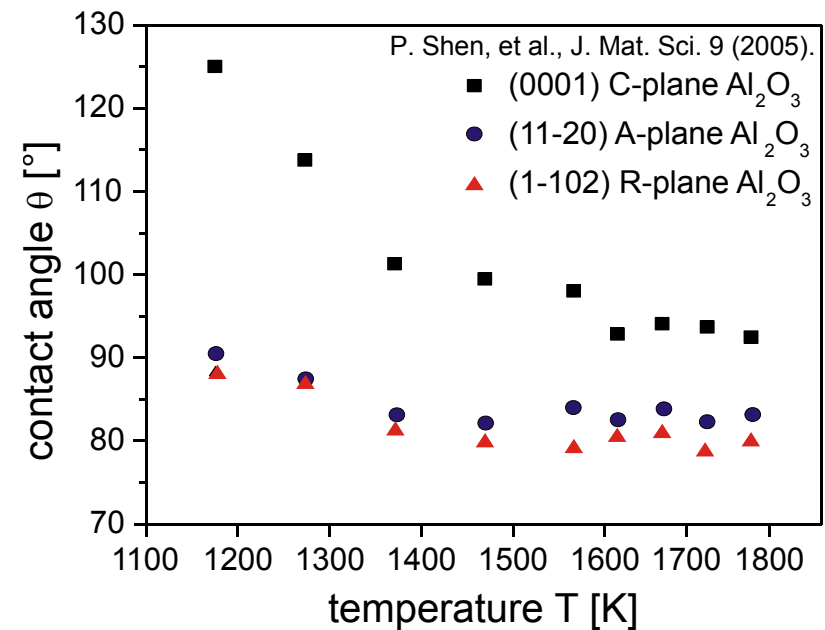


Motivation

Isotropic wetting of Cu on $\alpha\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3$



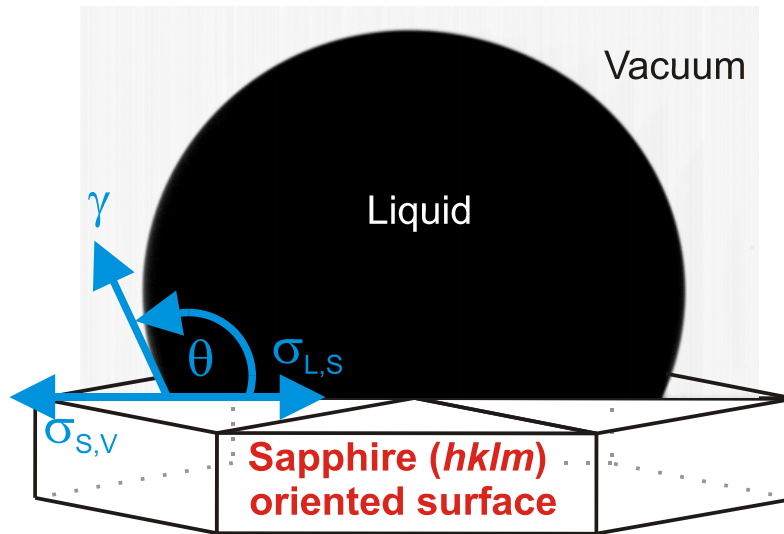
Anisotropic wetting of Al on $\alpha\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3$



- Wetting behaviour mostly unknown for alloys
- Al-Cu/ $\alpha\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3$: isotropic or anisotropic?



Fundamentals of wetting – Work of adhesion



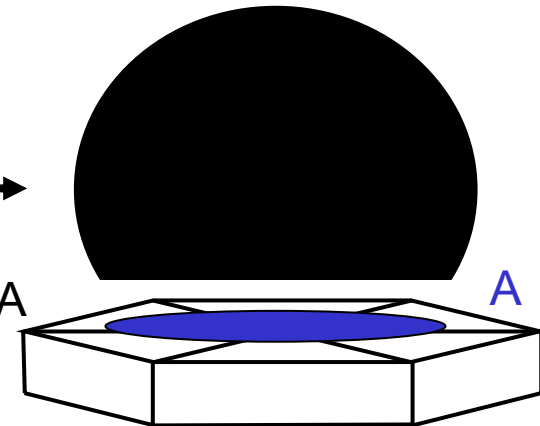
wetting:

$$E_1 = \sigma_{L,S}A$$



desorption:

$$E_2 = \sigma_{S,V}A + \gamma A$$



$$(E_2 - E_1)/A = W_{adh} = \sigma_{S,V} + \gamma - \sigma_{L,S}$$

$$\cos \theta = \frac{\sigma_{S,V} - \sigma_{L,S}}{\gamma}$$

Young equation

$$W_{adh} = \gamma(1 + \cos \theta)$$

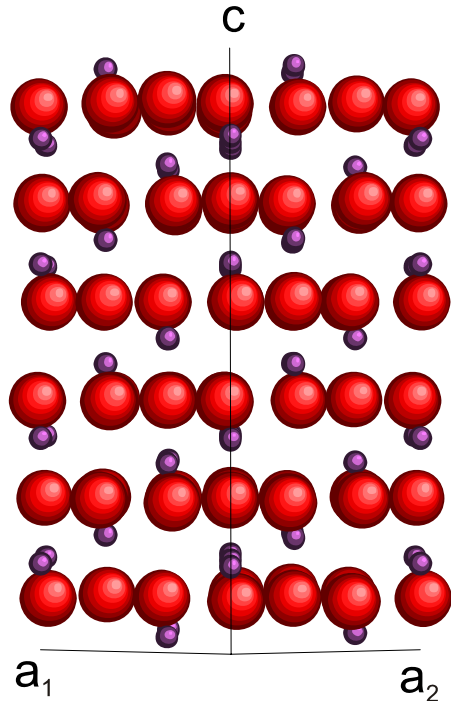
Electromagnetic levitation

Sessile drop

Crystal structure of $\alpha\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3$ (sapphire)

➤ hcp stacking of O^{2-}

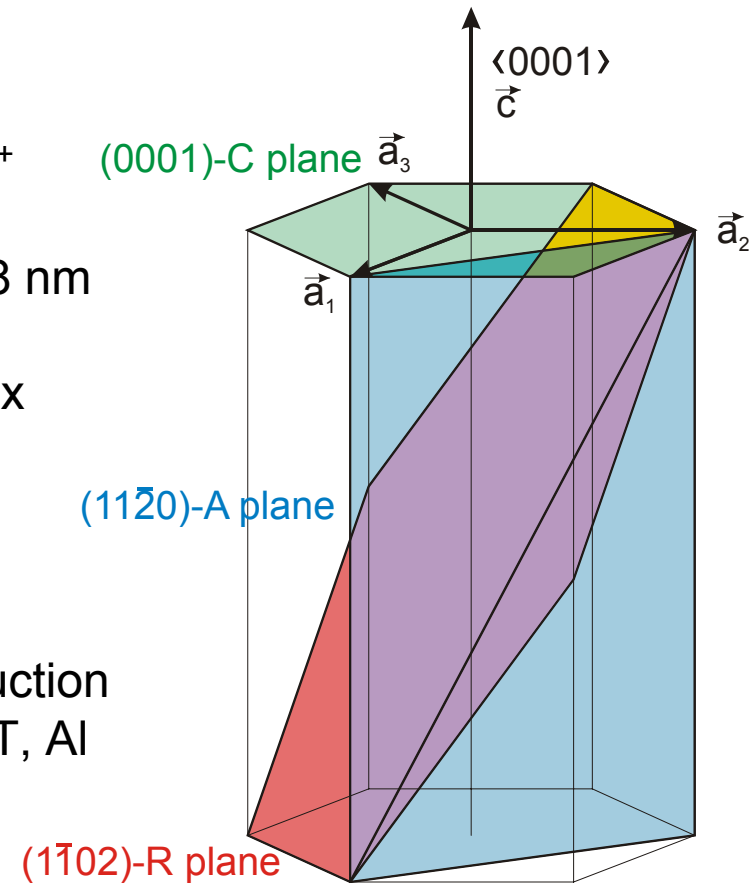
➤ 2/3 of octahedron sites occupied by Al^{3+}



➤ $c=1,3 \text{ nm}$, $a=0,48 \text{ nm}$

➤ different low index crystallographic planes
→ anisotropy

➤ surface reconstruction of C-plane (high T, Al vapour)

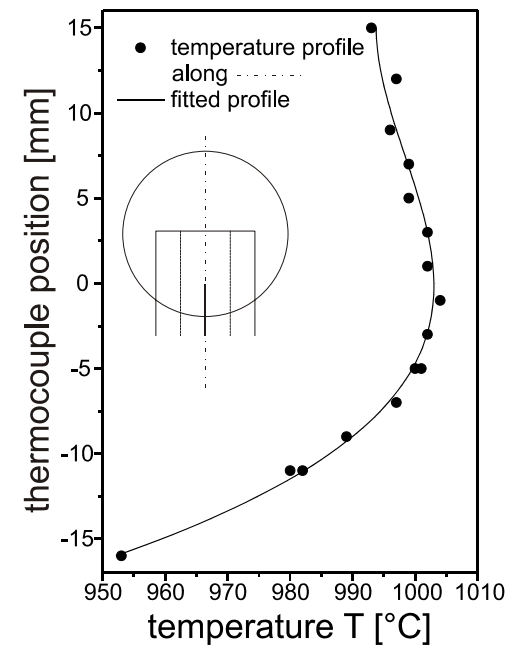
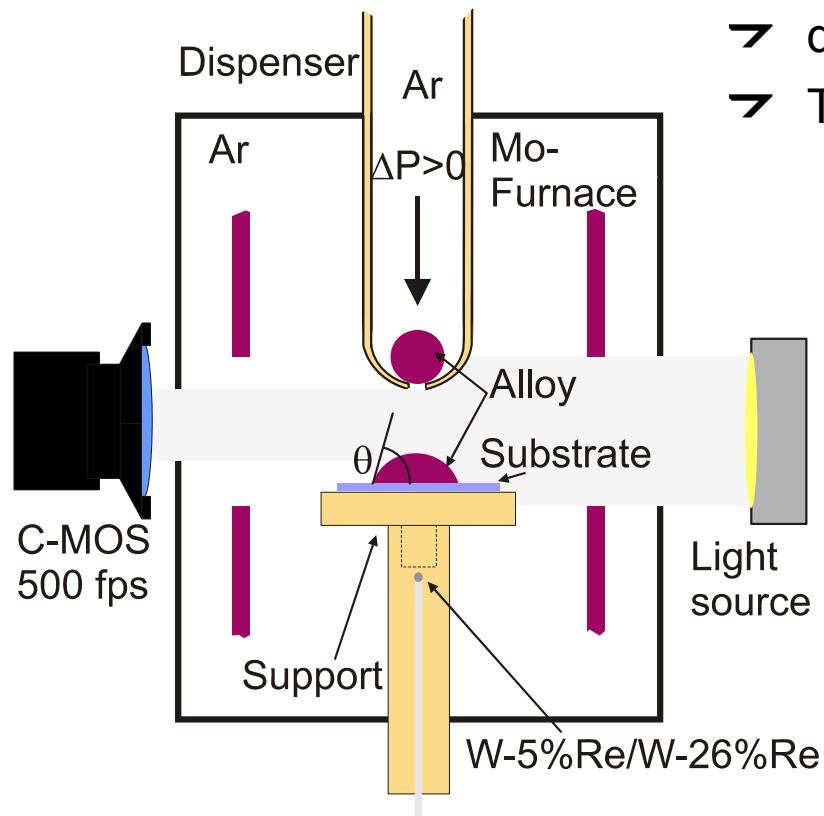


Sessile drop apparatus

well-defined wetting conditions: ➤ low p_{O_2} ($<10^{-6}$ bar)

➤ drop dispenser

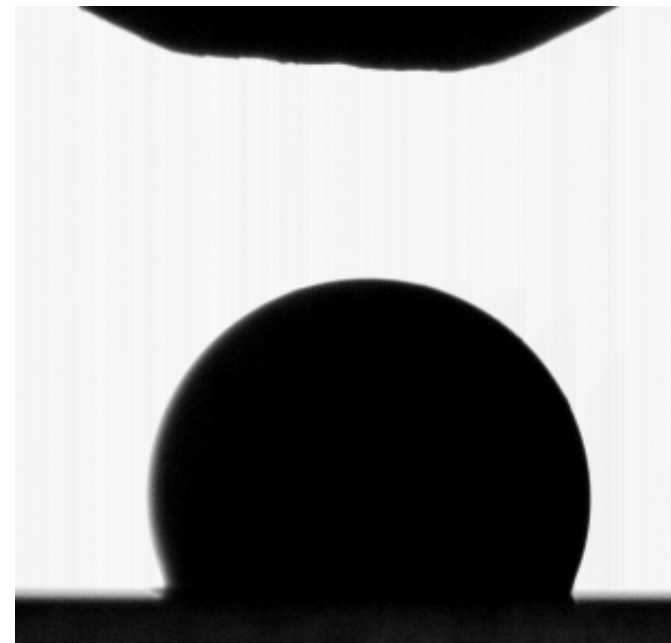
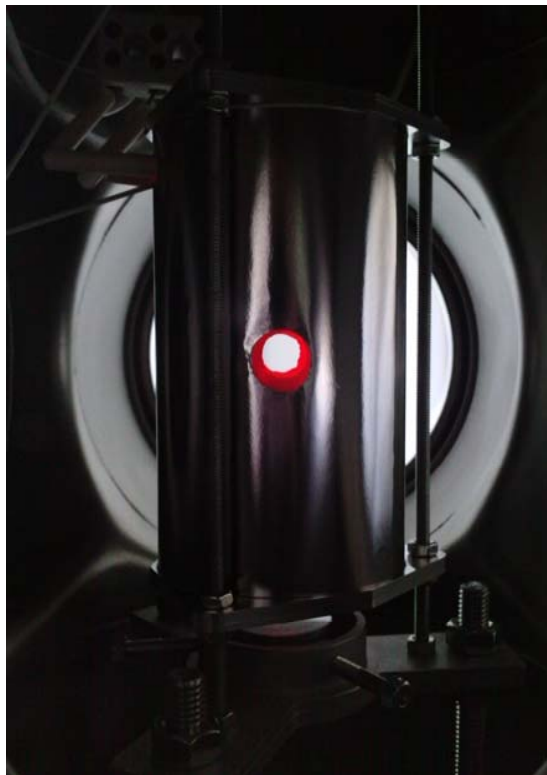
➤ $T > T_L(\text{Cu})$, $dT/dx(\text{sample}) = -0,03 \text{ K/mm}$





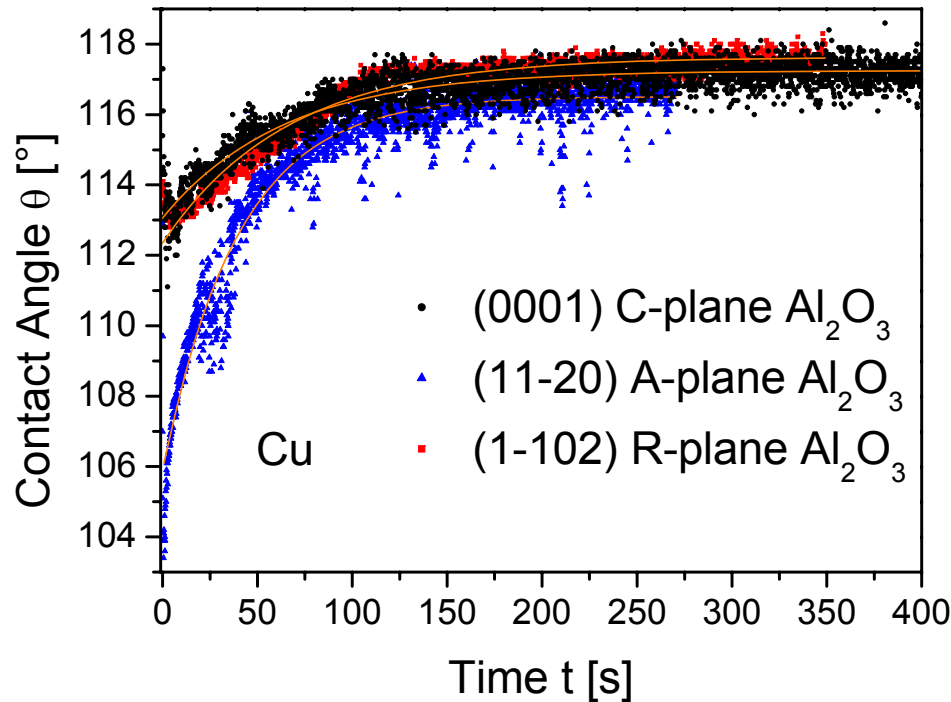
Sessile drop apparatus

- well-defined wetting conditions:
- low p_{O_2} ($<10^{-6}$ bar)
 - drop dispenser
 - $T > T_L(\text{Cu})$, $dT/dx(\text{sample}) = -0,03$ K/mm





Contact angle of **Cu** on $\alpha\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3$ at $T = 1100^\circ\text{C}$



$$\cos \theta = \frac{\sigma_{S,V} - \sigma_{L,S}}{\gamma}$$

➤ Exponential increase of θ

$$\theta = \theta_\infty - (\theta_\infty - \theta_0) e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}}$$

$\theta_\infty \approx 116^\circ$, $\theta_0 \approx 110^\circ$ (non-wetting)
 $22\text{s} < \tau < 275\text{s}$

➤ θ_∞ in agreement with literature data^{1,2,3,4}
 at $10^{-12}\text{bar} < p_{\text{O}_2} < 10^{-6}\text{bar}$

➤ $\theta(t)$ due to deoxidation

➤ Increase of $\sigma_{L,S}$, γ $\frac{d\sigma}{dt} > \frac{d\gamma}{dt}$

¹ P.D. Ownby, J. Liu., J. Adhes. Sci. Technol. 2 (1988)

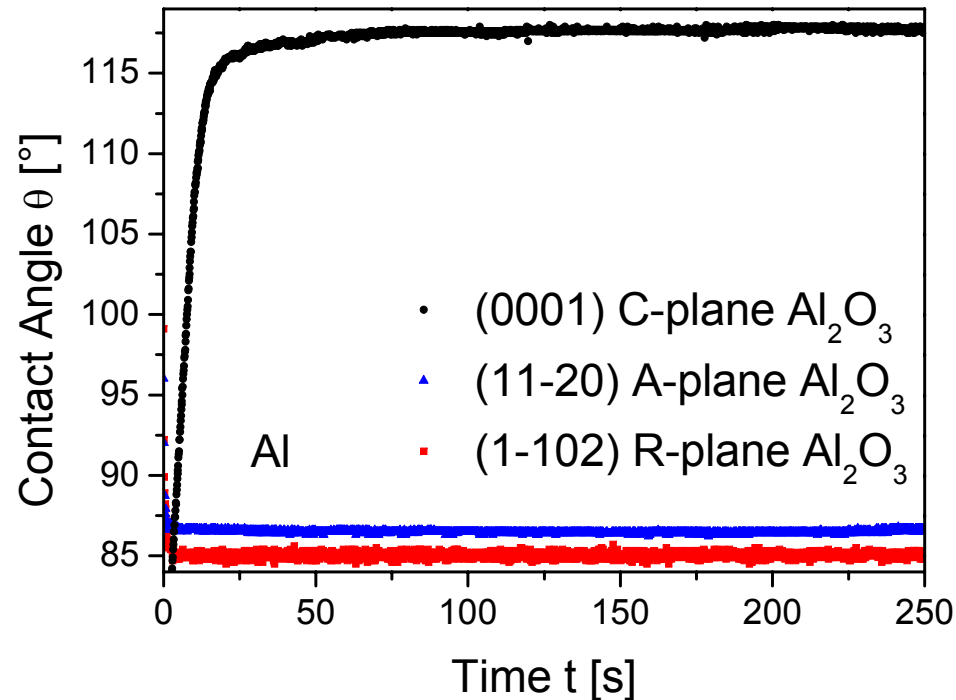
² M. Diemer et al., J. Am. Ceram. Soc. 82 (1999)

³ V. Ghetta, et al., Acta Mater. 44 (1996)

⁴ T.E. O'Brien, A.C.D. Chaklader, J. Am. Ceram. Soc. 57 (1974)



Contact angle of **Al** on $\alpha\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3$ at $T = 1100^\circ\text{C}$

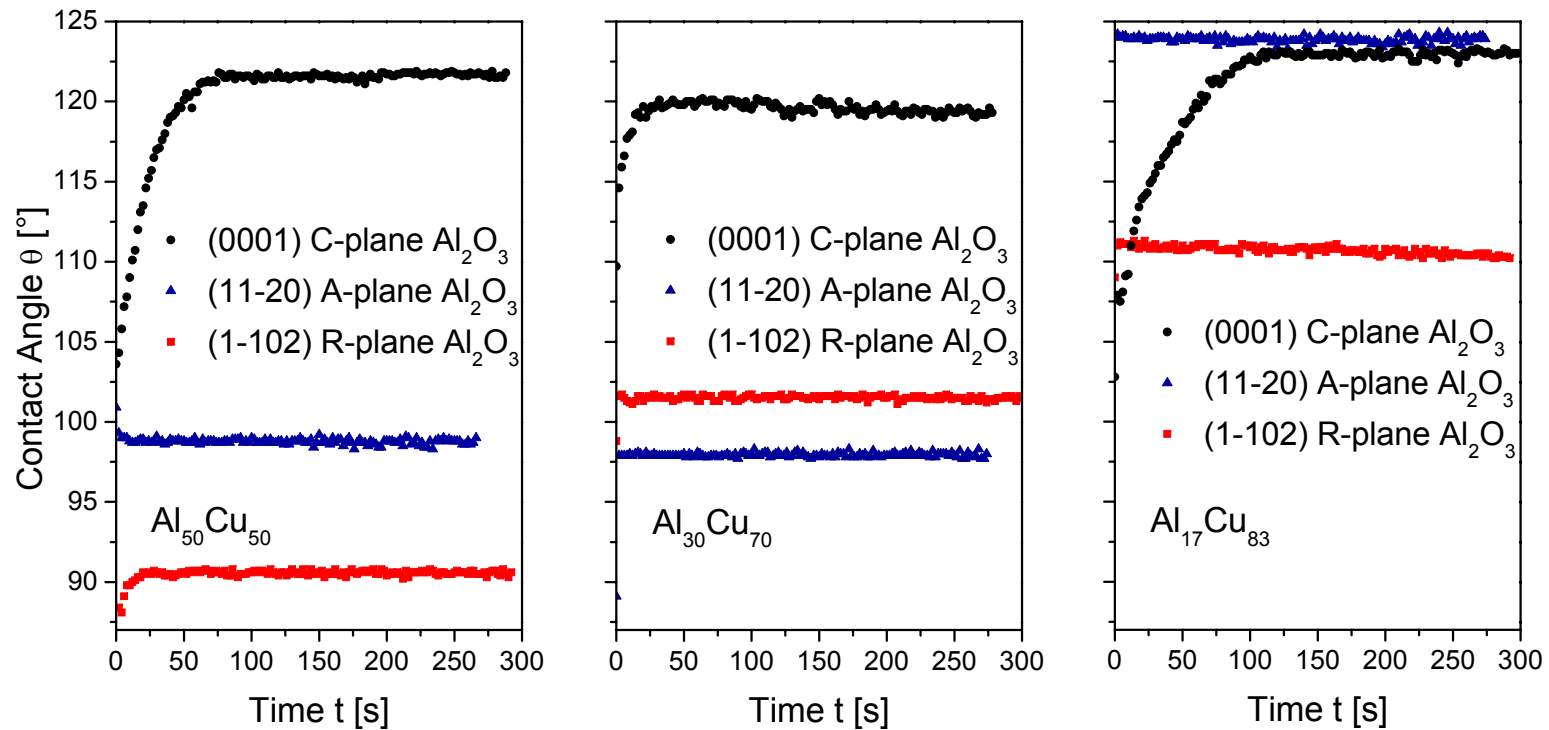


$$\cos \theta = \frac{\sigma_{S,V} - \sigma_{L,S}}{\gamma}$$

- increase of θ only on C-plane
 $\theta_\infty \approx 114^\circ$, $\theta_0 \approx 90^\circ$, $\tau \approx 10$ s
- others: $\theta_0 \approx \theta_\infty \lesssim 90^\circ$ (wetting)
- different $\theta(t)$: due to surface specific processes
- $\theta > 90^\circ$: increase due to
 $\frac{d\sigma_{S,V}}{dt} < 0$, $\frac{d\sigma_{S,L}}{dt} > 0$
- θ_∞ : surface reconstruction of C-plane⁵
 θ_0 : unreconstructed surfaces

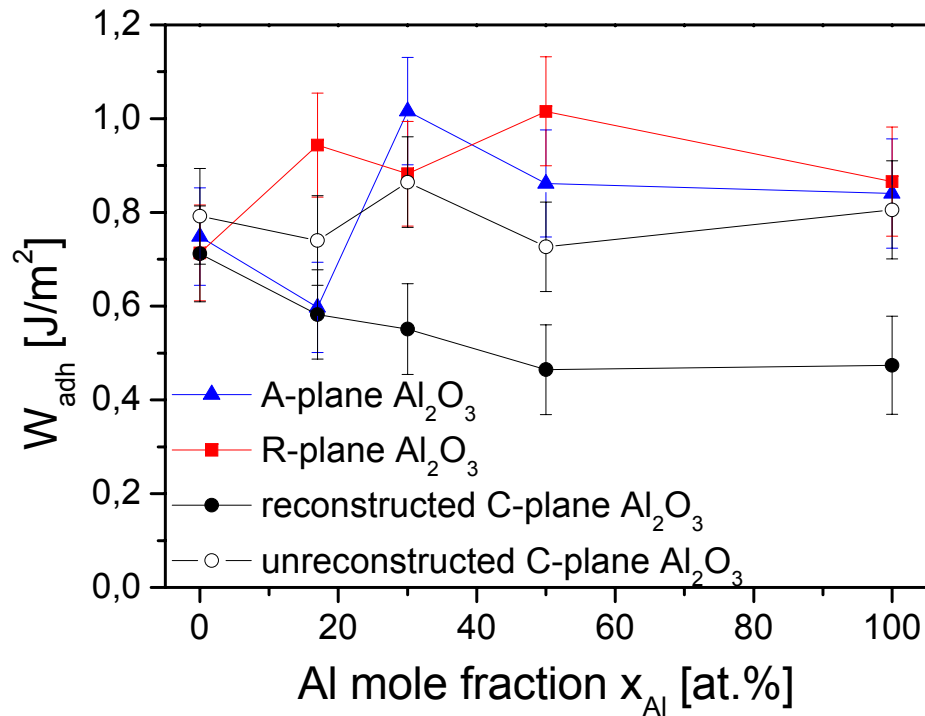


Contact angle of **Al-Cu** on α - Al_2O_3 at $T = 1100^\circ\text{C}$



- **qualitative behaviour like wetting of Al on the substrates**
 - No significant change in θ for C-surfaces
 - Increase of θ for R- and A-surfaces with x_{Cu}

Work of adhesion of Al-Cu/ α -Al₂O₃ at T = 1100°C



- reconstructed C-plane: decrease of W_{adh} with x_{Cu}
- others: small increase with x_{Al}
- pronounced anisotropy for $x_{Al} \leq 50\%$
- thermodynamic model⁶ explains behaviour for dilute solutions
 - adoption of Al at each interface

$$W_{adh} = \gamma \cdot (1 + \cos \theta)$$

Atomic interactions at the Al-Cu/ α -Al₂O₃ interface

	ε [kJ/mol] ⁷
Al-Al	133
Al-Cu	217
Cu-O	269
Al-O	511

- Cu/ α -Al₂O₃: $\varepsilon_{\text{Cu-O}} \approx \varepsilon_{\text{Cu-Al}}$
wetting independent of surface termination
- Al/ α -Al₂O₃: $\varepsilon_{\text{Al-O}} \approx 4\varepsilon_{\text{Al-Al}}$
stronger interaction with O-rich surfaces
reduced wetting by reconstruction (C-plane)
- Al-Cu/ α -Al₂O₃: adsorption of Al
 $x_{\text{Al}}^{\text{Interface}} > x_{\text{Al}}^{\text{Bulk}}$
mainly Al-Al, Al-O interactions,
surface termination affects wetting for
 $x_{\text{Al}}^{\text{Bulk}} \geq 17\%$



Summary

- no anisotropy in wetting of Cu of different $\alpha\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3$ surfaces (non-wetting)
- anisotropy in wetting of pure Al and Al-Cu of different $\alpha\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3$ surfaces:
 - Al or Al-Cu/ C-plane Al_2O_3 : $\theta_\infty \approx 120^\circ$, decrease of θ_0 with x_{Cu}
 - Al or Al-Cu/ A- and R-plane Al_2O_3 : $\theta_\infty = \theta_0 = \theta_0(\text{C-plane})$ (wetting)
 - **enhanced wetting of Al-rich Al-Cu alloys on A-, R- and unreconstructed C-plane $\alpha\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3$**
- no transition isotropic-anisotropic wetting observed for low x_{Al} (17 at.%)
- behaviour of $W_{\text{adh}}(x_{\text{Al}})$ suggests Al adsorption at surface and interface