

质子交换膜燃料电池金属双极板 改性碳基涂层技术研究进展

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摘要: 对比了碳基涂层改性金属极板、未涂覆的金属极板和传统石墨极板性能的优劣, 阐述了碳基涂层在优化金属极板导电耐蚀性能方面取得的最新成果, 以及在质子交换膜燃料电池(Proton exchange membrane fuel cells, PEMFCs) 环境长期运行后, 碳基涂层出现性能失效及寿命受限等问题。通过分析影响碳基涂层性能的因素, 指出由于非晶碳材料设计、微观结构等对其性能影响规律的系统化研究不足, 导致非晶碳涂层/金属极板损伤及退化机理不明确。重点阐述了国内外关于 PEMFCs 金属极板改性碳基涂层材料技术的研究进展, 包括调控本征碳基涂层(a-C) 微观形貌优化涂层性能; 采用理论计算与实验相结合的方法制备金属掺杂碳基涂层(a-C: Me), 解决涂层与特定金属基体间粘附性差、压应力高等问题; 设计多层结构碳基涂层以减少贯穿性缺陷。探讨了几类涂层失效机制, 并对金属极板改性用碳基涂层技术进行了展望。

关键词: 质子交换膜燃料电池; 双极板; 碳基涂层; 导电性能; 耐腐蚀性能

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Research Progress of Carbon-based Coating for Metal Bipolar Plates of Proton Exchange Membrane Fuel Cells

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ABSTRACT: In this work, the performances of bare metallic plate, traditional graphite plate and metallic bipolar plate modified

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with carbon-based coating used in the proton exchange membrane fuel cells (PEMFCs) were compared; the latest achievements of carbon-based coatings in improving the conductivity and corrosion resistance of metallic bipolar plates were reviewed; and issues such as performance degradation and limited life of carbon-based coatings were discussed, especially after long-term operation in PEMFCs environment. By analyzing the factors that affect the performance of carbon-based coatings, it was found that systematic researches on the relationship between microstructure of carbon-based coating and its performance were insufficient, leading to an unclear damage and degradation mechanism of a-C carbon coating/ metallic bipolar plate. The research progress of modified carbon-based coating materials for PEMFCs metal plates at home and abroad was mainly discussed, including improving the coating performance by adjusting the microstructure of carbon-based coatings (a-C); preparing metal-doped carbon coating (a-C:Me) by combining theoretical calculation with practice; solving the poor adhesion, high pressure stress and other issues between coating and special metallic matrix, design multi-layer structures to reduce penetrability defects. The failure mechanism of several kinds of coatings was discussed and the development trend of carbon-based coating technology for metallic plate modification was prospected.

KEY WORDS: proton exchange membrane fuel cell; bipolar plate; carbon-based film; conductivity; corrosion resistance

近年来,随着工业的不断发展,能源枯竭和环境污染等问题日益突出,氢能与燃料电池技术是公认的有效解决方案之一^[1-2]。其中,质子交换膜燃料电池(Proton exchange membrane fuel cells, PEMFCs)具有低运行温度、零排放、高比功率和高能量转换率等优点,在车用动力电源、便携设备和航空等领域前景广阔^[3-4]。PEMFCs 主要由双极板、膜电极组件、端板和密封件等组成^[5]。双极板作为 PEMFCs 的核心多功能组件,起到均匀分配气体、排水、导热、导电等作用,其质量占整个燃料电池的 60%,成本占 15%~20%^[6-9],其性能和成本会直接影响电池的使用寿命和商业化进程。传统石墨极板由于体积大、制造成本高以及力学性能较差,逐渐被可加工性强、导电导热性优、力学性能好的金属双极板取代^[10-12]。然而在电池酸性工作环境中,金属极板易腐蚀,腐蚀过程中形成的金属离子会导致质子交换膜离子传输效率下降,同时在金属双极板表面形成的钝化膜会增大界面接触电阻(Interface contact resistance, ICR),从而导致燃料电池性能下降^[13-15]。

表面涂层材料技术可以在保持金属极板优异的力学性能和加工性能的基础上,提高金属极板的电导率和耐蚀性^[16]。Wang 等^[17]研究了金涂层改性钛金属双极板的短期性能,可减少金属氧化物的形成和金属离子的溶出。Feng 等^[18]利用离子注入技术,将 Ag 离子注入到 316L 不锈钢基体,成功制备出厚度 45 nm 富银层。相比于基体,富银表面层改善了基体耐腐蚀性和抗极化性。该团队^[19]还通过相同的方法在 SS316L 表面制备了富镍层,改善极板导电耐蚀性,但由于成本较高,贵金属层技术不适合大批量商业生产。Mohammadi 等人^[20]利用二氧化铅(PbO₂)具有成本低和在 H₂SO₄ 中电导率高的特点,通过电沉积技术在 SS316L 上制备 PbO₂ 涂层。在模拟 PEMFCs 环境下,PbO₂ 涂层易发生局部腐蚀,难以满足极板的耐蚀性能需求。Gonzalez-Rodriguez 等人^[21]利用电化

学沉积法在 SS304 极板上制备的聚吡咯涂层具有较高的耐腐蚀性,但长时间运行后,出现涂层降解。A. Orsi 等^[22]通过物理气相沉积工艺将氮化钛(TiN)涂层沉积到 SS316L 基体上,并对其耐蚀性能和 ICR 进行评估。在 0.8~1.4 V (vs. SHE) 的范围内测量电位对 TiN 涂层的影响,恒电位极化数据表明,电流密度随电势的降低而降低。另外,与未涂覆的 SS316L 相比,在 1.4 V (vs. SHE) 电位下,涂覆 TiN 涂层的 SS316L 的 ICR 从 12.9 mΩ·cm² 增大到 287 mΩ·cm²。Zhang 等^[16]使用两种表面改性技术制备 TiN 涂层,即通过磁控溅射技术制备 SS304/Ti₂N/TiN 涂层和通过脉冲偏压电弧离子镀技术制备 SS304/TiN 涂层,两种涂层均具有较好的耐蚀性能,但改性极板界面接触电阻较大,不能满足 2020 年美国能源部(United States Department of Energy, DOE)燃料电池技术指标(腐蚀电流密度小于 1.00 μA/cm², ICR 小于 10 mΩ·cm²)。N. D. Nam 等人^[23]研究了射频磁控溅射技术制备的 TiN/CrN 多层涂层的电化学反应与 TiN/CrN 涂层厚度比的关系。在模拟燃料电池(1 mol/L H₂SO₄+2 mg/L F⁻, 70 °C)阴极环境下进行 10 h 动电位极化测试后,不同厚度比的 TiN/CrN 多层涂层的腐蚀电流密度均增加到 15 μA/cm² 左右。综合考虑成本与性能改善,由于非晶碳涂层兼具优异的导电性和耐腐蚀性能,且规模化成本优势显著,在 PEMFCs 金属极板的应用中引起了广泛关注。非晶碳(Amorphous carbon, a-C)^[24]是一大类无定型碳的总称,其结构主要由 sp² 杂化(类石墨结构)和 sp³ 杂化(类金刚石结构)的原子碳组成。sp³ 杂化能有效阻止腐蚀离子的侵蚀,而 sp² 杂化主要影响导电性。因此通过平衡 sp² 和 sp³ 杂化的比例,可以获得高导电、高耐蚀并且具有良好力学性能的非晶碳涂层。

目前,国内外多个科研团队已经开发了多种方法制备金属双极板改性碳基涂层(见表 1),主要包括物理气相沉积^[25-28]和化学气相沉积^[3,29]等方法。通过

表 1 不同沉积方法对双极板碳基涂层性能的影响
 Tab.1 Effects of different deposition methods on the performance of bipolar plate carbon-based coating

| Deposition method | Coating | Electrolyte | Corrosion current density / ($\mu\text{A}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}$) | ICR/ ($\text{m}\Omega\cdot\text{cm}^2$) | Research institute | Ref. |
|----------------------|---------------------------|---|--|---|---|------|
| Plasma-CVD | a-C | 0.5 mol/L H_2SO_4 + 2 mg/L HF, 80 °C | 1.00 | 8.90 | University of Hyogo, Japan | [3] |
| CVD | Ni/C | 0.5 mol/L H_2SO_4 , 40 °C | 0.32 | — | Feng Chia University, Taiwan | [29] |
| CFUBMSIP | a-C:Cr | H_2SO_4 + 0.1 mg/L HF (pH=3), 80 °C | 0.76 | 2.30 | Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China | [35] |
| CFUBMSIP | a-C | H_2SO_4 + 0.1 mg/L HF (pH=3), 80 °C | 0.60 | 6.80 | Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China | [30] |
| CFUBMSIP | a-C:Nb | H_2SO_4 + 5 mg/L HF (pH=3), 80 °C | 0.30 | 1.22 | Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China | [36] |
| CFUBMSIP | a-C:W | 0.5 mol/L H_2SO_4 + 2 mg/L HF, 70 °C | 1.30 | 6.25 | Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China | [37] |
| CUBMSIP | $\text{TiC}_x/\text{a-C}$ | H_2SO_4 + 0.1 mg/L HF (pH=3), 80 °C | 0.38 | 2.35 | Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China | [38] |
| CUBMSIP | $\text{TiC}_x/\text{a-C}$ | H_2SO_4 + 0.1 mg/L HF (pH=3), 80 °C | 0.32 | 1.85 | Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China | [39] |
| CFUBMSIP | Cr-N-C | 0.5 mol/L H_2SO_4 + 5 mg/L HF, 70 °C | 0.31 | 2.11 | Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China | [40] |
| CFUBMSIP | Cr-N-C | 0.5 mol/L H_2SO_4 + 5 mg/L HF, 70 °C | 0.61 | 2.64 | Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China | [41] |
| CFUBMSIP | CrC/a-C:Cr | 0.5 mol/L H_2SO_4 + 5 mg/L HF, 70 °C | 0.28 | 2.89 | Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China | [33] |
| CFUBMSIP | ZrC/a-C | 0.5 mol/L H_2SO_4 + 5 mg/L HF, 70 °C | 0.49 | 3.63 | Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China | [42] |
| Magnetron sputtering | MoC | 0.5 mol/L H_2SO_4 + 2 mg/L HF, 70 °C | 0.09 | 6.50 | Southern University of Science and Technology, China | [43] |
| MS-PVD | a-C | 1 mol/L H_2SO_4 + 5 mg/L F^- , (70±3) °C | 0.14 | — | Islamic Azad University (IAU), Iran | [27] |
| MS-PVD | $\text{TiC}_x/\text{a-C}$ | H_2SO_4 + 0.1 mg/L HF (pH=3), 80 °C | 0.30 | 3.58 | Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China | [44] |
| PBAIP | a-C:Cr | 0.5 mol/L H_2SO_4 + 5 mg/L F^- , 70 °C | 0.10 | 2.80 | Dalian University of Technology, China | [31] |
| MS-PVD | a-C | 1 mol/L H_2SO_4 + 5 mg/L F^- , (70±3) °C | 0.13 | 5.00 | Nuclear Science and Technology Research Institute (NSTRI), Iran | [25] |
| HEMAA | TiC | 1 mol/L H_2SO_4 | 0.03 | — | Institute of Metal Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China | [9] |

化学气相沉积 (CVD) 法在 SS304 基体上制备 a-C 涂层, 涂层耐蚀导电性能满足美国 DOE 指标。Chung 等^[29]使用 CVD 技术在 SS304 表面制备了碳涂层, 发现涂层的表面形态取决于 CVD 沉积过程中气体碳源的浓度。该方法可以通过调控气相组成制备具有不同化学成分的涂层, 从而获得梯度或复合镀层, 但 CVD 技术的沉积功率较低, 且成膜时工件温度高, 在应用上受到一定限制。相比之下, 物理气相沉积 (PVD) 法制备的涂层 ICR 均小于 CVD 涂层 ($8.90 \text{ m}\Omega\cdot\text{cm}^2$), 具有较好的电导率^[3]。Bi 等^[30]研究了偏置电压对闭合场非平衡磁控溅射离子镀 (Closed field unbalanced magnetron sputter ion plating, CFUBMSIP) 沉积的 a-C 涂层微观结构和性能的影响, 成功制备出具有致密结构的 a-C 涂层。Wu 等^[31]通过脉冲偏压电弧离子镀 (PBAIP) 在 SS316L 上沉积一系列含铬的碳涂层。涂层中 sp^3 和 sp^2 碳原子的含量受掺杂铬的影响很大, 且 ICR 与 sp^3 和 sp^2 碳原子的含量密切相关。 $\text{Cr}_{0.23}\text{C}_{0.77}$ 涂层获得最低的 ICR (压实压力为 1.20 MPa, ICR 为 $2.8 \text{ m}\Omega\cdot\text{cm}^2$) 以及最佳的耐腐蚀性。与 CVD 法相比, PVD 沉积工艺过程简单, 且成膜均匀致密。此外, Y. J. Ren 等^[9]通过高能微弧合金化 (HEMAA) 技术获得的涂层比 PVD 方法制备的涂层结构更致密, 该

涂层的腐蚀电流密度仅为 $0.034 \mu\text{A}/\text{cm}^2$, 且在模拟 PEMFCs 的阴极工作环境下浸泡 30 天后, 仍然具有较高的稳定性。因此, 与 PVD 涂层相比, 由 HEMA 制备的 TiC 涂层可以更有效地阻止腐蚀物质到达基体, 成为阻止腐蚀物质向内渗透的有效屏障。总体上, 对于含氢、无氢非晶碳, 采用 PVD 沉积工艺获得的涂层材料具有更好的耐蚀性与更低的接触电阻, 这可能与 H 组分、电阻率有关。Asri 等^[32]充分探讨了双极板涂层与表面处理方法间的联系, 客观评估了涂层制备方法和涂层性能。Yi 等^[33]、Bi 等^[30]和 Wang 等^[34]从涂层结构设计和组分调控等多方面研究了碳基涂层性能。在产业方面, 上海 YOOGLE (佑戈) 公司和常州翊迈新材料科技有限公司等也开发了系列碳基涂层改性的金属双极板产品。研究表明, 采用非晶碳涂层材料技术可以显著提高多种金属极板的耐蚀性与导电性, 同时部分产品已应用于上汽集团的荣威 750、950 及大通 V80 系列车型上, 实测性能良好, 市场应用潜力巨大。

碳基涂层改性金属极板具有良好的机械性、优异的耐蚀导电性能和较低的价格, 适合大批量商业生产。由于国内外研究的具体应用工况和需求不同, 涉及的金属极板种类多样, 包括 SS316L、SS304、Ti、

Ti6Al4V 等金属极板，研究团队针对不同的金属极板所开发的耐蚀导电非晶碳材料技术差异巨大。本文从非晶碳涂层材料组分、结构设计角度出发，综述了本征非晶碳涂层、金属掺杂非晶碳涂层以及多层结构非晶碳涂层在该领域的研究进展，并对碳基涂层改性金属极板的研究方向进行了展望。

1 本征非晶碳涂层

Lee 等^[45]利用低温加速 C₆₀ 离子束技术制备纳米复合碳改性 316L 不锈钢。如图 1 所示，在模拟电池阴极环境 (0.5 mol/L H₂SO₄+2 mg/L HF, 80 °C) 下，涂层改性极板的腐蚀电流密度降低为 0.23 μA/cm²；

而在模拟电池阳极环境下，碳涂层的腐蚀电流密度为 0.05 μA/cm²，有效地抑制了基体的腐蚀。改性极板界面接触电阻降低有限，仍大于 10 mΩ·cm²。Afshar 等^[27]考察了基板温度对碳涂层结构和电化学性能的影响。如拉曼光谱 (图 2a) 所示，随着基体温度的增加，D 峰强度增加，碳涂层中小尺寸纳米晶石墨或短程有序石墨结构增多。不同基板温度下，经碳涂层涂覆的 316L 不锈钢的动电位极化测试结果如图 2b 所示。基板温度会改变纳米晶石墨的晶粒尺寸、缺陷和粗糙度，从不同程度影响了涂层导电耐蚀性能。类似地，Show 等^[46]研究对比了 a-C 涂覆钛极板在 550、600 °C 时的性能。与未处理的基体相比，a-C 涂层可将接触电阻降低 1/2。

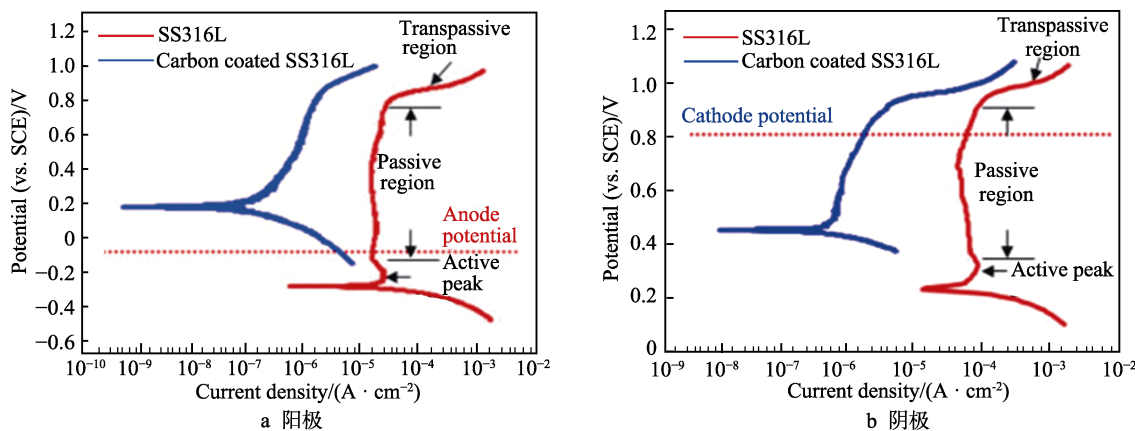


图 1 改性碳涂层与 SS316L 在阳极和阴极环境下的动电位极化曲线

Fig.1 Potentiodynamic polarization curves of modified carbon coating and SS316L (a) anode and (b) cathode environments

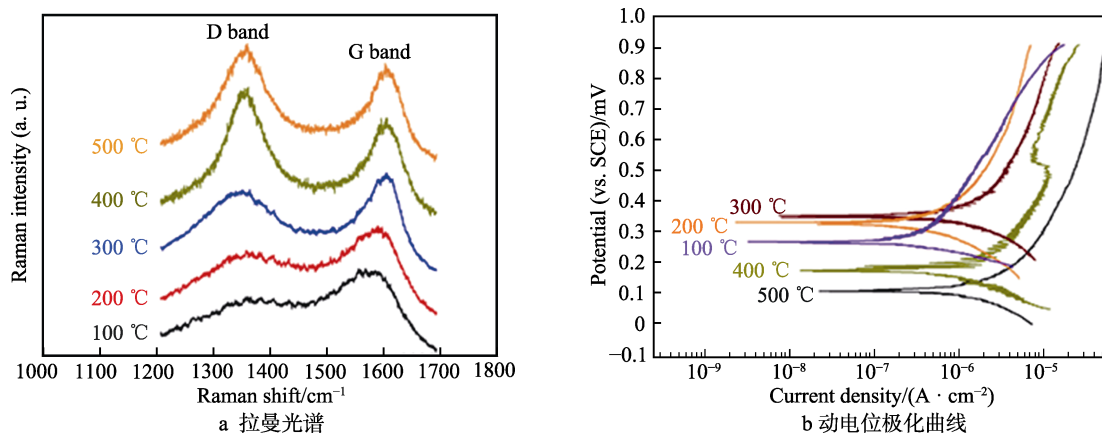


图 2 不同温度沉积的非晶碳涂层拉曼光谱和动电位极化曲线

Fig.2 Raman spectrum (a) and Potentiodynamic polarization curves (b) of amorphous carbon coating deposited at different temperatures

Feng 等^[47]利用闭合场非平衡磁控溅射技术在 316L 不锈钢表面涂覆纯 a-C 涂层，并在 80 °C 下浸泡在 0.5 mol/L H₂SO₄+2 mg/L HF 的腐蚀液中进行动电位极化测试。与未涂覆 SS316L 相比，涂层改性的 SS316L 表现出更高的耐腐蚀潜能，腐蚀电流密度显著降低至 1.85 μA/cm²，ICR 低于未处理的 SS316L。同时，该团队^[48]制备出连续且致密的 a-C 涂层，纯

a-C 涂层改性不锈钢极板具有比石墨极板更好的性能。

此外，在考虑到结合力等实际需求，本征非晶碳涂层在使用中涉及到过渡层的使用。Li 等^[49]采用模拟计算分析常用 W、Ti、Cr 等金属层对于非晶碳的催化作用。如图 3 所示，在 a-C@Ti 系统中，a-C 结构中的 sp²-C 含量随着温度升高到 900 K 而逐渐升高，随着温度进一步升高到 1500 K 而降低。在 a-C@Cr

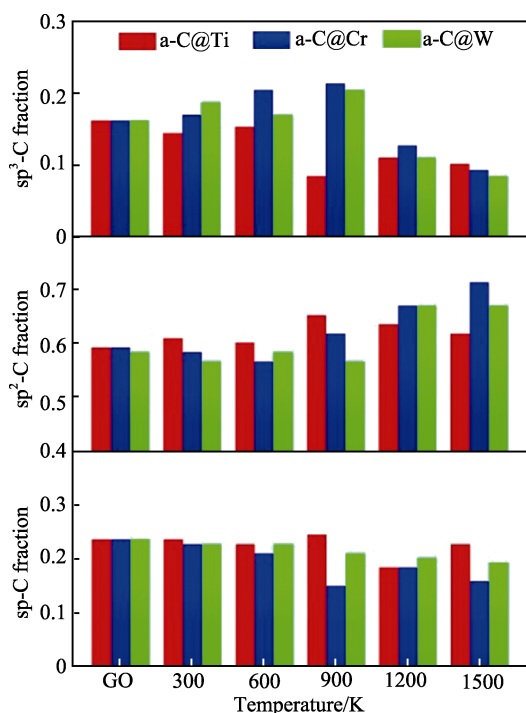


图3 温度升高过程中三种过渡层与 a-C 涂层的杂化碳结构演变

Fig.3 Evolution of hybrid carbon structure of three transition layers and a-C coating during temperature increase

和 a-C@W 系统中，随着温度的变化，sp²-C 含量的变化趋势与 a-C@Ti 相反。因此，在较低的温度 (<900 K) 下，Ti 比 Cr 或 W 对 a-C 结构的催化作用更好；而在较高的温度 (>900 K) 下，Cr 或 W 更易使 a-C 转变为石墨化结构。人们从原子尺度上比较研

究这三种过渡层与 a-C 涂层之间的界面结构，明确了界面处金属-碳作用情况以及沿涂层厚度方向 sp³/sp² 键态含量演变规律。Wu 等人^[50]通过直流磁控溅射技术在 SS304 上制备 Cr/a-C 涂层，发现在 Cr 过渡层与 a-C 涂层界面处形成了互锁结构，Cr/a-C 涂层的内部缺陷成功地从互锁结构中错开，有效地阻止了腐蚀液到达基体，提高了电极相关性能。

在本征非晶碳损伤机理方面，Bi 等^[30]通过对涂层沉积技术参数进行调控，成功制备出具有不同微观形貌的 a-C 涂层。结构最致密涂层的腐蚀电流密度仅为 0.6 μA/cm²，远小于 2020 年美国 DOE 技术指标。涂层 ICR 值也仅为 2 mΩ·cm²，是具有最疏松结构涂层的 ICR 值的 1/20。基于测试前后非晶碳表面组分分析，该团队提出了表层钝化作用以及类石墨组分 (sp²) 氧化导致极板性能退化的机制，在金属双极板改性碳基涂层机理研究方面处于领先地位。Li 等^[51-52]利用直流磁控溅射技术制备了系列 SS316L/a-C 极板，发现在模拟 PEMFCs 工作条件下，a-C 涂层可显著提高 SS316L 的耐蚀导电性能。通过优化溅射功率和磁场强度，发现在 0.9 kW 沉积的 a-C 涂层具有最低腐蚀电流密度 (7.52×10⁻³ μA/cm²) 和初始接触电阻 (2.91 mΩ·cm²)。12 h 腐蚀测试后，ICR 增至 4.00 mΩ·cm²，且可在 a-C/SS316L 界面处观测到 Cr₂O₃ 的富集 (如图 4 所示)。这种氧化物具有良好的化学惰性和绝缘性，在抵抗基体腐蚀的同时，也一定程度上阻碍了电流的传输，是导致接触电阻上升的主要原因之一，从而提出了界面损伤导致 a-C/SS316L 性能退化的机理。

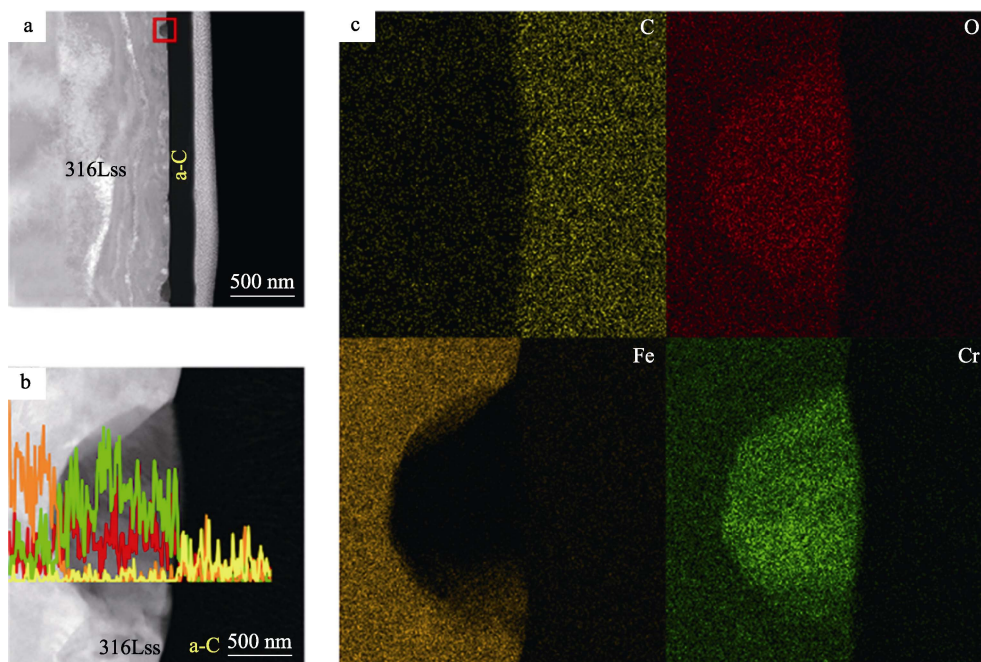


图4 在长期恒电位测试后 a-C 涂层的 HAADF 图像以及红色正方形区域相应 EDS 线扫描图

Fig.4 HAADF images of a-C coatings, and the corresponding EDS line-scanning mapping of the red square area after the long-time potentiostatic test

2 金属掺杂非晶碳涂层

上述非晶碳涂层虽使金属极板具有良好的导电耐蚀性能，但仍然存在应力高、易剥落等问题。涂层中的残余应力会显著影响到涂层的结合强度、抗疲劳、耐蚀等性能，也是引起涂层表面裂纹、剥落的重要因素。如果涂层中残余应力较高，则会在涂层中产生更多的裂纹缺陷，涂层也更容易脱落。尤其是在腐蚀过程中，腐蚀性介质通过涂层中的裂纹、通孔等缺陷到达膜基界面位置，形成点蚀，进而加速膜基界面失效。金属掺杂后可有效地减少涂层中的残余应力，这是因为金属原子与碳原子之间存在电负性的差别，使得键中存在离子部分的贡献，降低了键的方向性和对键角畸变的敏感度^[53-54]。金属元素掺杂非晶碳会产生离子键、共价键、非键和反键四类成键特征，键的离子相互作用导致残余应力大大降低^[55-58]。因此，金属（Ti、Mo、Cr、Al 或 W 等）元素掺杂 a-C 涂层的方法可解决涂层因应力较高而剥落失效的问题，同时也优化了涂层与基体的电导率或化学亲和力^[59-61]。Hou 等人^[36]利用第一性原理计算揭示了 Nb 掺杂 a-C 涂层中 sp²/sp³ 的变化规律，并对碳原子键合、结构、掺杂碳原子状态以及电荷密度分布进行了模拟，并利用 CFUBMSIP 方法制备了 Nb 掺杂 a-C 涂层。结果表明，涂覆极板的腐蚀电流密度均低于未涂覆基体 SS316L，经过恒电位极化测试 24 h 后，腐蚀电流密度随着掺杂 Nb 含量增加而降低。在 1.40 MPa 测试条件下，掺 Nb 样品的 ICR 值均低于纯 a-C 涂层。

Wang 等人^[62]在 SS304 表面制备了铌掺杂 a-C 涂

层，使改性极板具有 8.47 mΩ·cm² 的低界面接触电阻和良好的耐腐蚀性（如图 5 所示）。在模拟燃料电池（0.5 mol/L H₂SO₄+2 mg/L HF，70 °C）阴极环境下进行动电位极化测试，涂层的腐蚀电流密度为 0.051 μA/cm²。极化 10 h 后，接触电阻增至 9.04 mΩ·cm²。Andersson 等^[63]使用非反应直流磁控溅射技术分别沉积了不同碳含量的金属掺杂碳基涂层。不同碳含量涂层的微观结构有明显不同（如图 6 所示），并导致涂层的导电耐蚀性能具有较大差异。该课题组^[15]将低成本电镀工艺应用到金属掺杂碳基涂层制备中，随着涂层中碳含量增加，ICR 值降低。类似地，研究者^[1]通过 CFUBMSIP 技术沉积了具有不同碳含量的金属掺杂碳基涂层，其电化学性能如图 7 所示。随着 Cr 靶电流的增加，涂层中 Cr 含量增加，且金属碳化物减

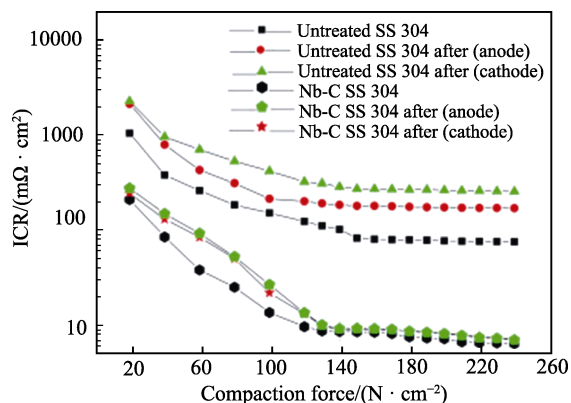


图 5 不同压实压力下 Nb-C/SS304 和 SS304 腐蚀前后的 ICR

Fig.5 ICR of Nb-C SS304 and SS304 under varying compaction forces before and after corrosion

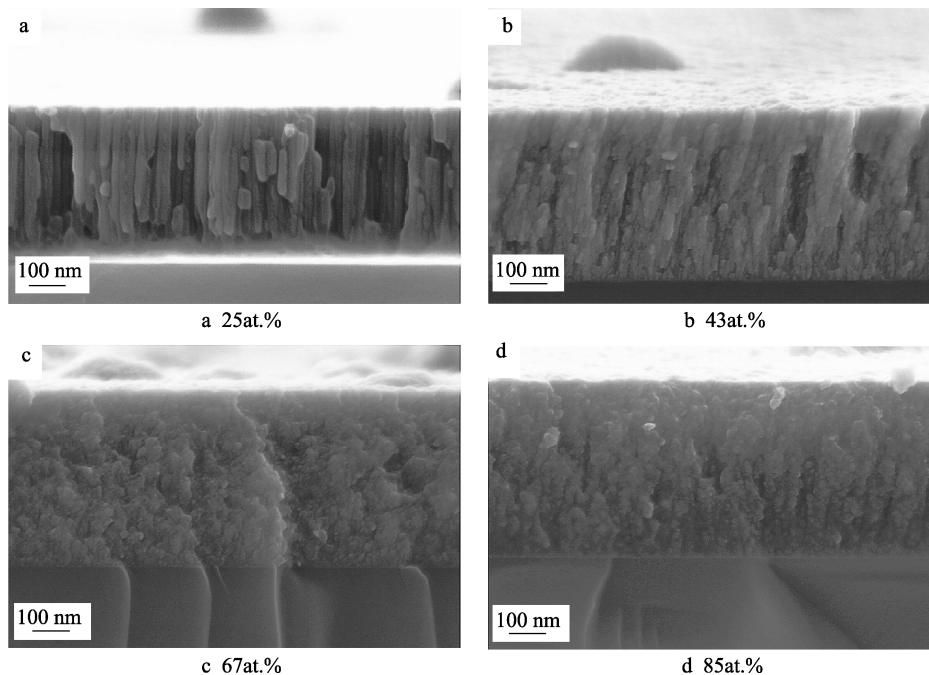


图 6 碳含量不同的 Cr_xC_y 涂层的截面形貌

Fig.6 SEM cross-sections of Cr_xC_y coating with different carbon contents

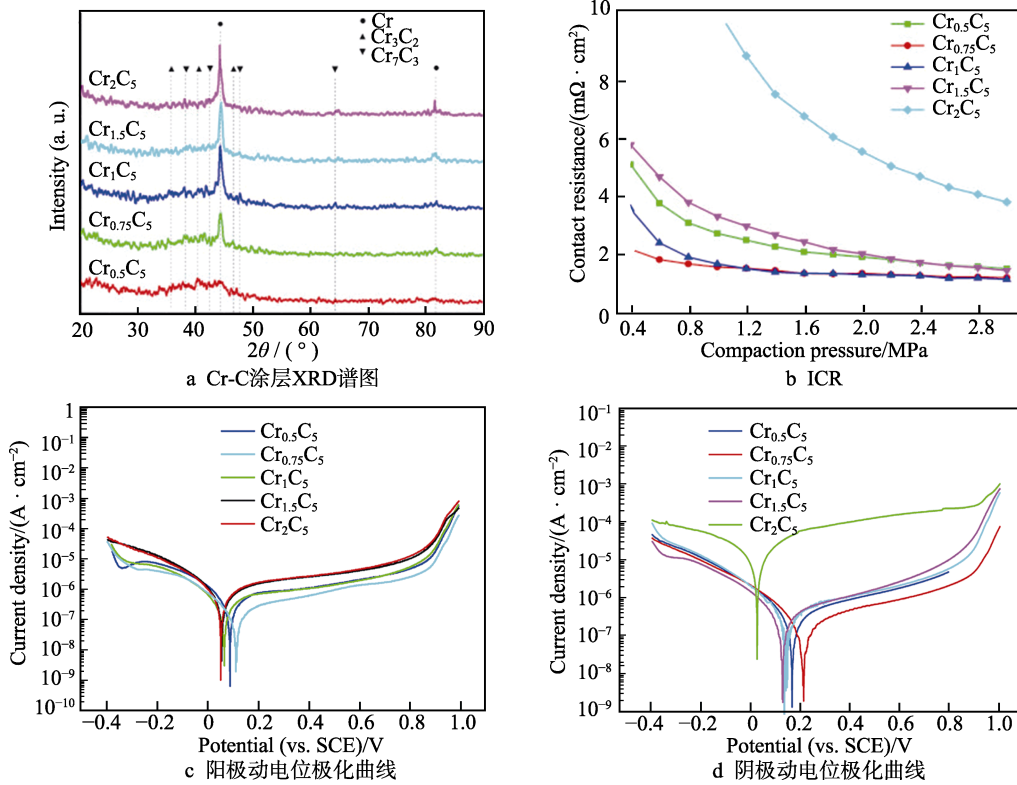


图7 碳含量不同的金属掺杂碳基涂层的电化学性能

Fig.7 Electrochemical properties of metal doped carbon based coatings with different carbon content: a) XRD patterns; b) ICR of the Cr-C multilayer films deposited on SS316L substrate; c) Potentiodynamic curves of coating under simulated anode environment; d) Potentiodynamic curves of coating under simulated cathode environment

少。在模拟电池阴极环境下，各涂层耐蚀性顺序依次为 Cr_{0.75}C₅>Cr_{0.5}C₅> Cr₁C₅>Cr_{1.5}C₅>Cr₂C₅。因此，通过工艺参数调控碳含量得到相似结论：涂层的耐蚀性与涂层组成密切相关，即随着 C 含量增加，耐蚀性也增加。Wang 等人^[37]通过 CFUBMSIP 技术制备 W 掺杂非晶碳涂层，发现了涂层具备自钝化能力。掺 W 的 a-C 涂层结构致密，并且随着 W 浓度的不同，涂层的相组成和表面形貌也发生了略微变化。在 1.50 MPa 压实压力下，掺杂浓度不同，ICR 在 6.25~7.21 mΩ · cm² 内波动。在丰富的理论计算指导下和大量的实验研究中，研究人员成功制备出各种单元金属

掺杂非晶碳涂层。实验结果表明，通过改变工艺参数可制备出具有良好耐腐蚀性和导电性的金属掺杂非晶碳涂层，且通过微量掺杂金属粒子，可有效地改善极板涂层的表面电导率和耐腐蚀性能。

基于单一元素掺杂的理论研究与实验结果，研究人员对多元掺杂非晶碳涂层在金属极板改性方面也做了探索。Li 等^[58]基于不同掺杂金属之间的特性互补和材料计算学优势，进行了多元掺杂复合涂层的组分优化设计。Ti/Al、Cr/Al 或 W/Al 共掺杂 a-C 涂层的残余压应力和成键特征如图 8 所示。与纯 a-C 涂层相比，Ti/Al、Cr/Al 或 W/Al 共掺杂的 a-C 涂层具有

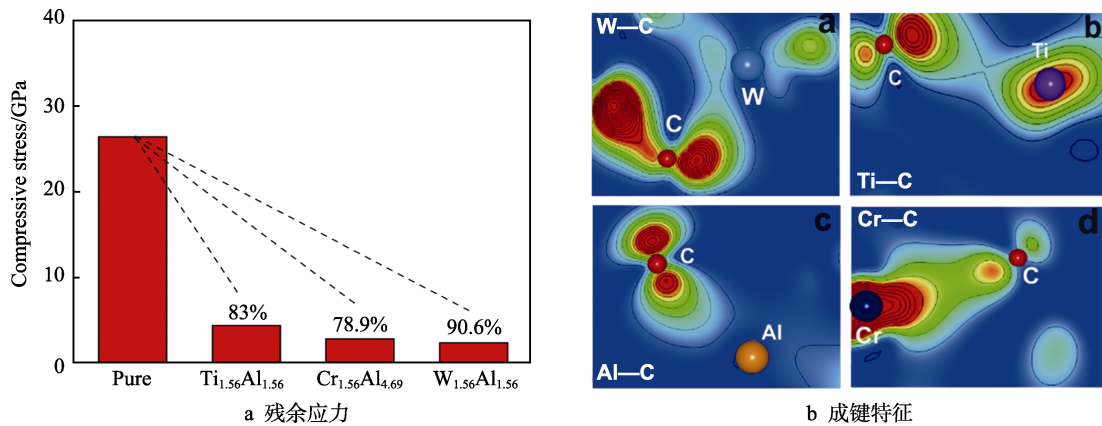
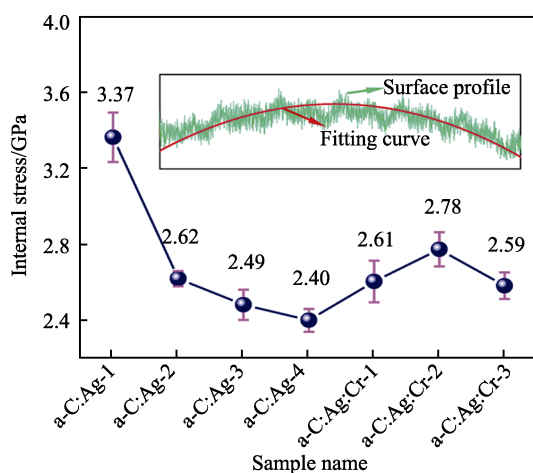


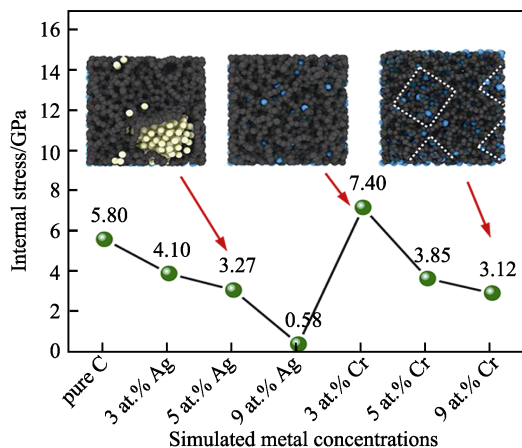
图8 多元共掺杂涂层残余应力和成键特征

Fig.8 Residual stress (a) and Bonding characteristics (b) of multi-component co-doped coating

降低应力的总体趋势。Ti/Al、Cr/Al 或 W/Al 共掺杂的 a-C 涂层会严重扭曲 C—C 键长度，并形成弱的共价键，从而形成 Ti—C、Cr—C、W—C 以及 Al—C 键的离子相互作用，导致残余应力大大降低，如图 8b 所示。Zhang 等^[64]将 Ag 和 Cr 原子掺杂到 a-C 涂层，结合分子动力学模拟掺杂 a-C 涂层的沉积过程和涂层结构变化。通过同时掺杂一定量 Ag 和 Cr，可降低 a-C 涂层内应力，并提高致密性，如图 9 所示。共掺杂 Ag 和 Cr 涂层样品的 ICR ($0.87 \text{ m}\Omega\cdot\text{cm}^2$) 低于单独掺杂 Ag 涂层 ($1.07 \text{ m}\Omega\cdot\text{cm}^2$)，经过耐久性测试后，ICR 约为 $2.14 \text{ m}\Omega\cdot\text{cm}^2$ 。结果表明，将适量的金属组元复合，可以进一步提高 a-C 涂层的耐腐蚀性，相关研究还有待进一步深入。



a 曲率法测量结果



b MD模型中维里定理计算的模拟结果

图 9 不同金属含量下涂层内应力

Fig.9 Internal stresses with different metal contents: a) experimental results measured by a curvature method; b) simulated results calculated by the Virial theorem from MD models

3 多层结构非晶碳涂层

与涂层腐蚀相关的大量研究表明，具有柱状结构和孔洞等缺陷是导致涂层耐蚀性能明显降低的原因之一。人们普遍认为多界面涂层可以减少贯穿性缺

陷。因此，设计多层结构涂层有利于提高耐蚀性。Yi 等^[41]采用 CFUBMSIP 技术在 0.1 mm 厚的 SS316L 表面制备了强结合梯度多层 Cr/CrN/CrNC/a-C 涂层，通过划痕测试评估对比了该多层体系与 SS316L 以及 a-C 与 SS316L 之间的结合强度（如图 10 所示）。在模拟电池 ($0.5 \text{ mol/L H}_2\text{SO}_4+5 \text{ mg/L HF}$, $70 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$) 阳极 (0.1 V (vs. SCE)) 和阴极 (0.6 V (vs. SCE)) 环境下恒电位极化 10 h 后，改性极板的极化电流密度均低于 $1 \mu\text{A}/\text{cm}^2$ ，且界面接触电阻为 $2.64 \text{ m}\Omega\cdot\text{cm}^2$ (压实压力为 1.40 MPa)。Bi 等人^[42]采用相同技术在 SS316L 表面制备了多层 Zr-C/a-C 涂层。在模拟电池 ($\text{pH}=3$, $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4+0.1 \text{ mg/L HF}$, $80 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$) 条件下测试改性极板，与 a-C 涂层相比，阴极和阳极环境中的腐蚀电流密度都降低了 1 个数量级。在 1.40 MPa 的测试条件下，Zr-C/a-C 涂层的 ICR 仅为 $3.63 \text{ m}\Omega\cdot\text{cm}^2$ 。

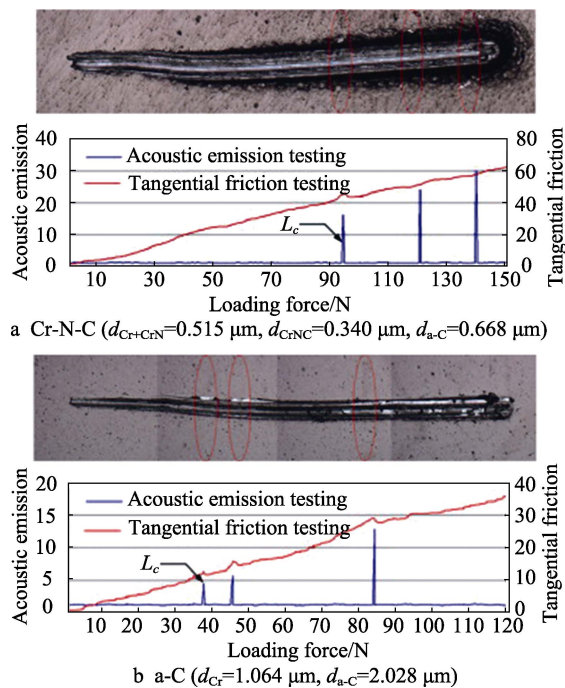


图 10 Cr-N-C 和 a-C 涂层划痕测试图

Fig.10 Scratch test results of Cr-N-C and a-C coatings

Yi 等^[39]提出一种在磁控溅射过程中通过不同负衬底偏压的协同作用沉积 $\text{TiC}_x/\text{a-C}$ 多层涂层的新方法。不同负衬底偏压使多层涂层表面形貌、 sp^2/sp^3 等发生改变，且抑制柱状微结构和微孔，可获得 ICR 为 $1.85 \text{ m}\Omega\cdot\text{cm}^2$ 、腐蚀电流密度为 $0.32 \mu\text{A}/\text{cm}^2$ 的涂层。在 PEMFCs 阴极环境下，单层涂层和多层涂层之间不同的腐蚀行为如图 11 所示。在此基础上，该团队^[33]进一步开发了多层碳化铬/铬掺杂非晶碳 (Cr-C/a-C:Cr) 新型涂层。在 1.50 MPa 时，Cr-C/a-C:Cr 涂层改性的 SS316L 极板的 ICR 仅 $2.89 \text{ m}\Omega\cdot\text{cm}^2$ 。在阴极工作电位 (0.6 V (vs. SCE)) 下，多层涂层涂覆的 SS316L 的钝化电流密度为 $0.276 \mu\text{A}/\text{cm}^2$ 。该多层涂层的耐蚀性比本征 a-C 涂层提高了 1 个数量级，满足

美国 DOE 的 2020 年技术指标。Zhang 等人^[44]利用衬底偏置电压逐层沉积的方法制备了多层 $\text{TiC}_x/\text{a-C}$ 涂层。以 15 个交替周期沉积的涂层在 0.6 V 电势下, 腐蚀电流密度为 $0.297 \mu\text{A}/\text{cm}^2$, ICR 值为 $3.58 \text{ m}\Omega \cdot \text{cm}^2$

(如图 12 所示), 在双极板的商业应用中显示出巨大的潜力。以上研究表明, 通过设计多层碳基涂层改性双极板, 可有效减少涂层缺陷而提高极板的耐腐蚀性能。

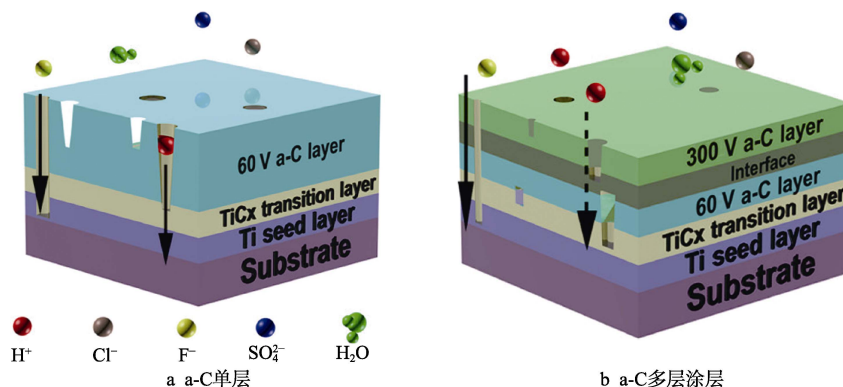


图 11 PEMFCs 阴极环境中 a-C 单层和 a-C 多层涂层不同的腐蚀行为

Fig.11 Schematic illustrations of the different corrosion behaviors between (a) a-C single layer and (b) a-C multilayer in PEMFCs cathode environment

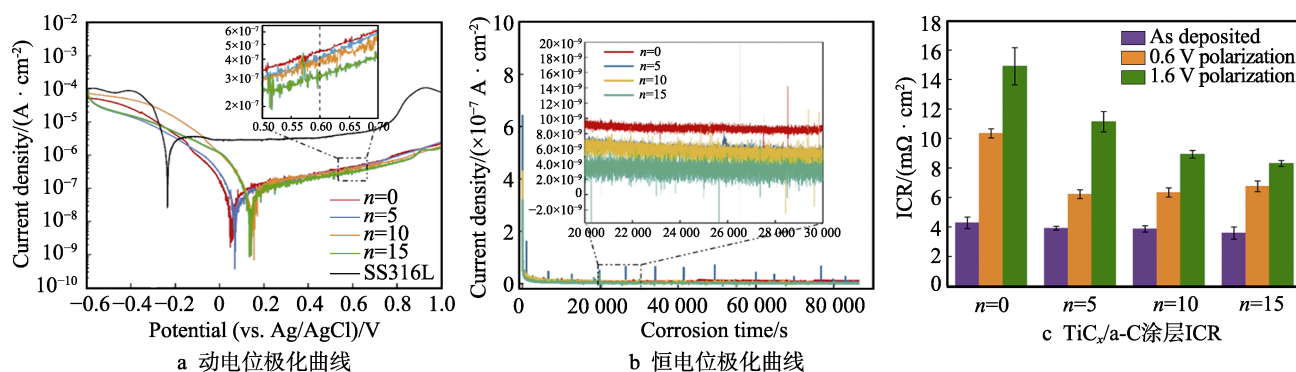


图 12 $\text{TiC}_x/\text{a-C}$ 多层涂层性能

Fig.12 $\text{TiC}_x/\text{a-C}$ multilayered coatings performance: a) potentiodynamic polarization curves; b) potentiostatic polarization curves; c) ICR of $\text{TiC}_x/\text{a-C}$ coatings

4 结语

随着工业的迅速发展, 对质子交换膜燃料电池性能的要求越来越高, 通过表面改性技术, 可赋予双极板更加优异的表面性能, 从而满足质子交换膜燃料电池的使用寿命要求。研究人员通过不同制备技术, 设计涂层结构, 调控制备工艺等方法研究改性双极板, 以保证改性后的极板具有良好的耐腐蚀能力和导电性能。以上研究表明, 碳基涂层可表现出较好的耐腐蚀性能和低接触电阻, 具有一定的应用前景, 但仍然存在很多挑战:

1) 目前各类碳基涂层在 PEMFCs 腐蚀环境下, 都面临着 ICR 不断增加的问题, 显著影响涂层性能和寿命。因此开发出性能优异并实现稳定低 ICR 的非晶碳涂层技术在该领域仍是巨大挑战。同时长时间运行时, 非晶碳/金属极板性能退化与损伤机理不明确, 仍需要进一步系统研究涂层组分、结构、致密性等与

性能的相关性, 阐明相关损伤机制。

2) 围绕具体工况需求, 针对不同材质与形状的金属极板材料, 开展针对性的 a-C 改性技术研发, 突破强结合、耐蚀、良导电的低成本非晶碳涂层技术, 对于商业化推广十分必要。

3) 在评价方法上, 美国 DOE 提出金属极板改性涂层性能的评估方法。然而, 质子交换膜燃料电池的实际运行环境非常复杂, 很难直接监测沉积在双极板上的涂层变化。国内外研究中, 以模拟电池腐蚀环境测试为主, 与燃料电池实际运行环境存在差异。因此, 将非晶碳涂层改性的金属极板组装成电池, 开展实际工况下的性能评价是实现其商业化推广的关键。

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