



EFRE 2020



STUDY OF COATINGS BASED ON CUBIC TUNGSTEN CARBIDE OBTAINED BY PLASMA DYNAMIC METHOD

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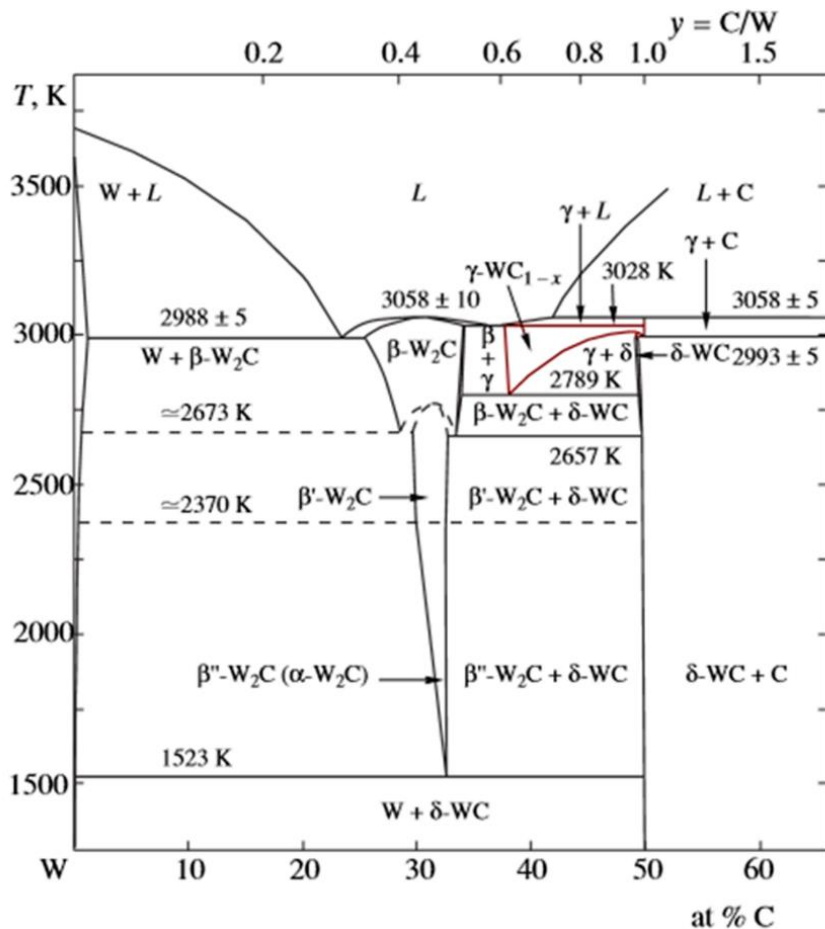


Fig. 1 – Phase diagram of the W–C system [1]

Cubic tungsten carbide WC_{1-x} is still the most poorly studied crystalline phase of the W-C system, since, according to the known phase diagram [1], it can be synthesized only in an extremely narrow range of parameters (pressure and temperature). This makes it difficult to obtain WC_{1-x} in bulk form and measure its physical and mechanical properties [2].

In this work, cubic tungsten carbide was synthesized in the form of a coating by the plasma dynamic method [3]. The process was implemented under high-speed spraying of an electric discharge W-C plasma on copper and titanium substrates. As a result, the coating has a sandwich structure $Cu+WC_{1-x}-WC_{1-x}-Cu$ (substrate) or $(TiC+WC_{1-x})-Ti-(WC_{1-x}+TiC)-Ti$ (substrate) with a thickness of the WC_{1-x} layer up to $\sim 10 \mu m$. Direct measurements of WC_{1-x} mechanical properties were carried out for the first time. The maximum values of nanohardness and Young's modulus of the WC_{1-x} layer are $H_V = 31.0 \pm 0.8$ and $E = 310 \pm 12$ GPa respectively.

[1] A.S. Kurlov, A.I. Gusev, Tungsten carbides and W-C phase diagram, *Inorg. Mater.* 42 (2006) 121–127

[2] Y. Gao, X. Song, X. Liu, C. Wei, H. Wang, G. Guo, On the formation of WC_{1-x} in nanocrystalline cemented carbides, *Scr. Mater.* 68 (2013) 108–110

[3] A. Pak, A. Sivkov, I. Shanenkov, I. Rahmatullin, K. Shatrova, Synthesis of ultrafine cubic tungsten carbide in a discharge plasma jet, *Int. J. Refract. Met. Hard Mater.* 48 (2015) 51–55

EXPERIMENTAL

PARAMITERS:

Electrical:

$U_c = 3.0$ kV, $C = 6$ mF, $W_c = 27$ kJ

Precursors:

W – purity > 99.7%, average size ~75 nm

C - carbon black, amorphous

$m(W+C) = 1$ g.,

Atomic ratio $[C]/[W] = 0.6$

Substrates:

Copper and titanium

Area: $50 \cdot 50$ mm²,

Thickness: 4 mm

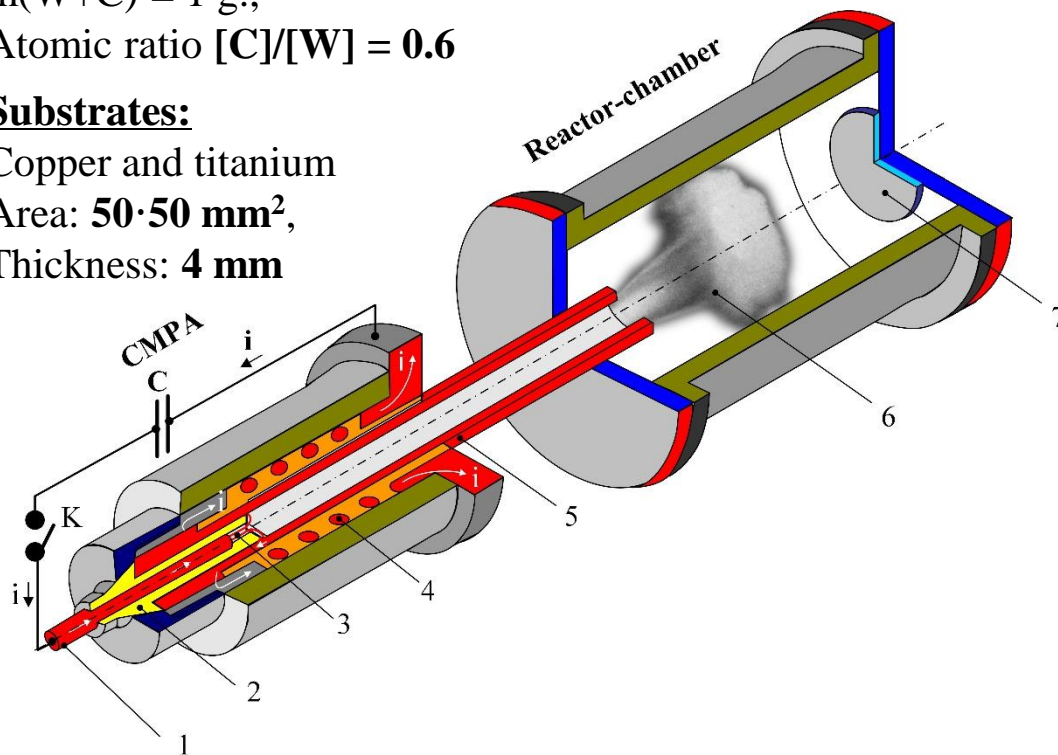


Fig. 2 – A schematic diagram of the installation for a plasma dynamic synthesis: **1** – Central non-magnetic metal electrode, **2** – Insulator, **3** – Plasma formation zone, **4** – Inductor, **5** – Graphite barrel electrode, **6** – Tungsten-carbon plasma jet, **7** – Metal substrate

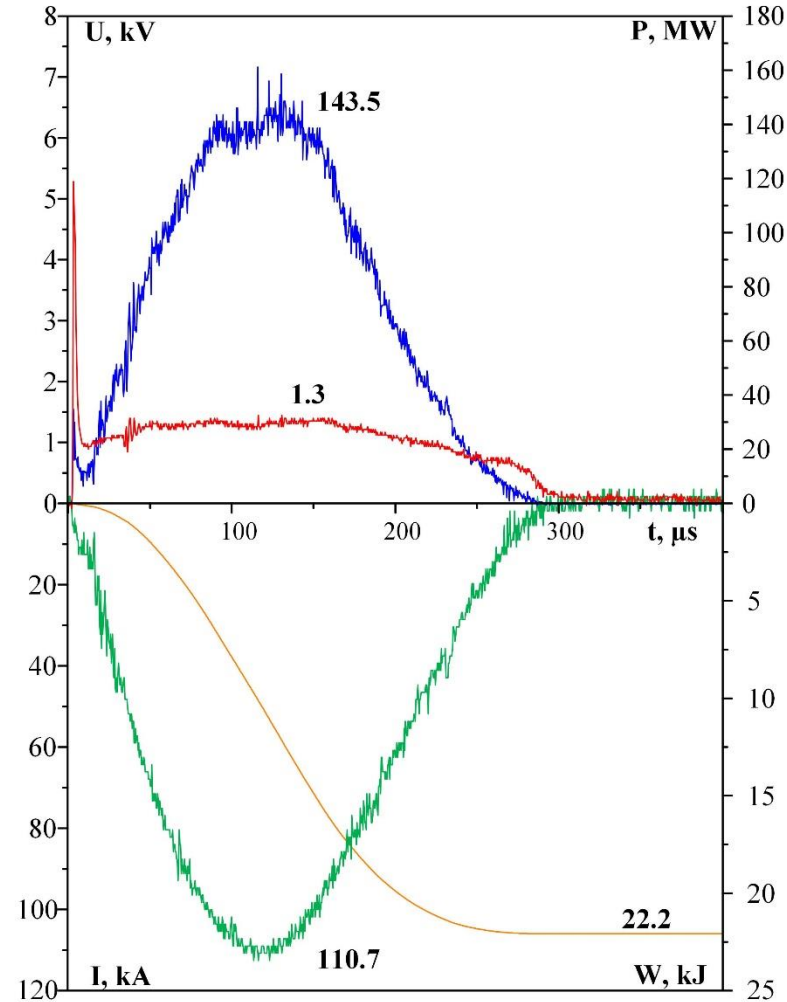


Fig. 3 – Typical oscillograms of current $I(t)$ and voltage $U(t)$, plots of discharge power $P(t)$ and energy input $W(t)$

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

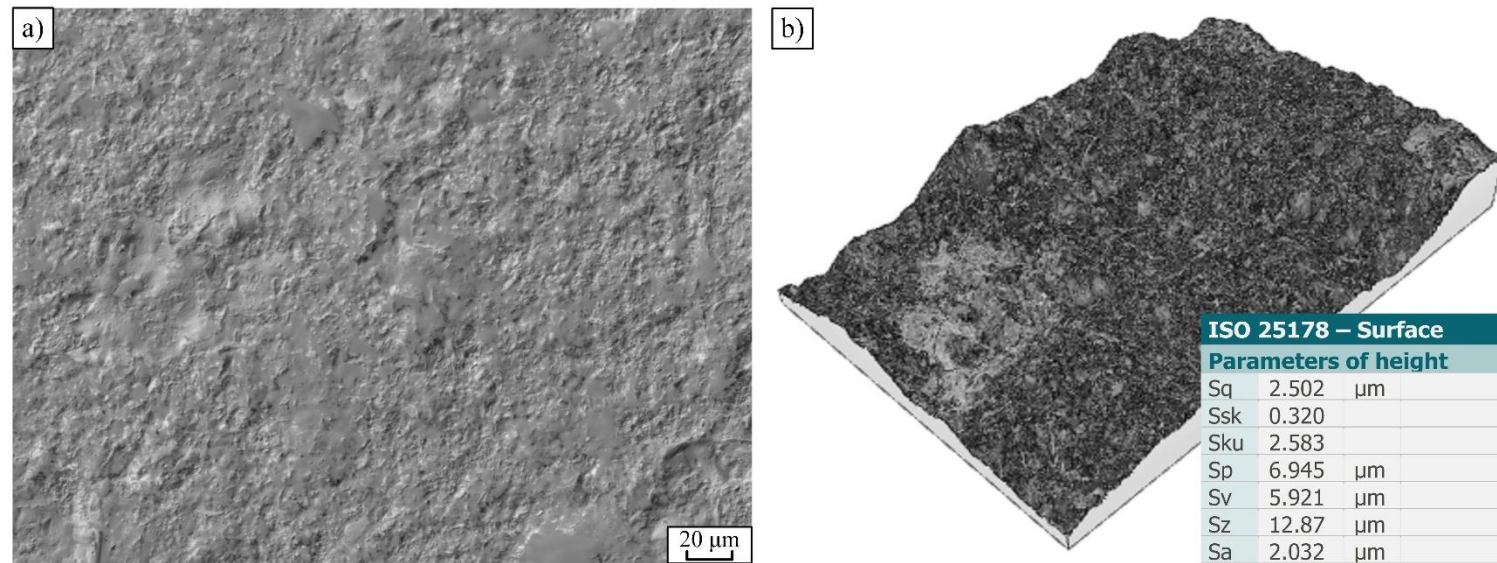
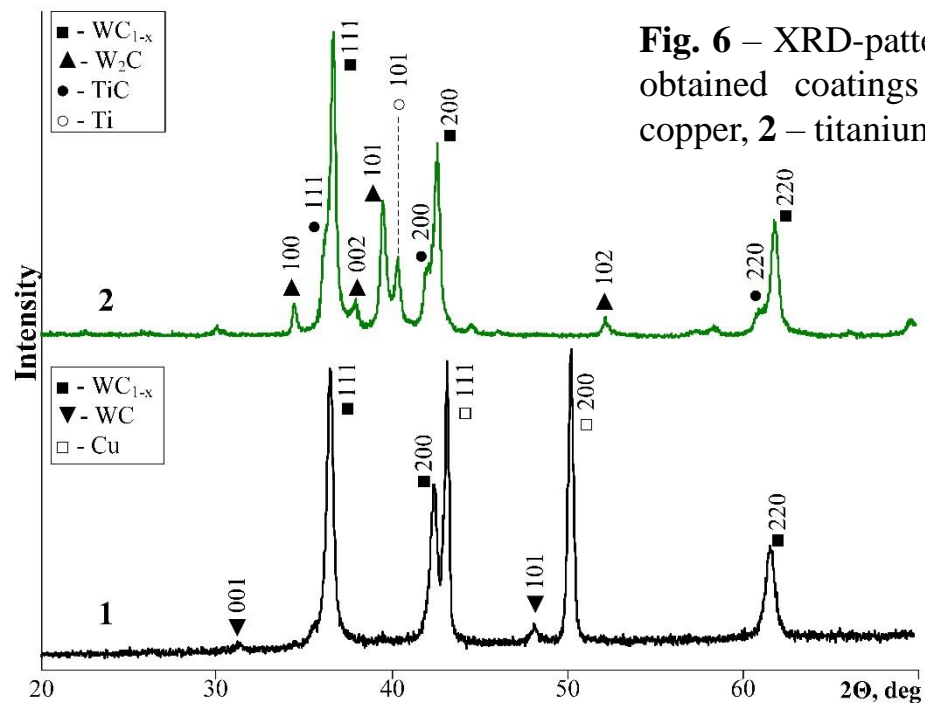


Fig. 4 – SEM image (a) and corresponding results of its processing (b)



Fig. 5 – Typical view of synthesized coating



RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Fig. 7 (a) shows a micrograph of the material that indicates the formation of a multilayer coating close to a “sandwich” structure. The substrate material (1) apparently surrounds the sintered mass of denser material (2). **Structure** – $\text{Cu}+\text{WC}_{1-x}-\text{WC}_{1-x}-\text{Cu}$ (substrate)

Fig. 7 (b) shows the microstructure of the coating deposited on a titanium substrate. In this case, an even more heterogeneous structure is observed since at least three areas of different density are formed. **Structure** – $(\text{TiC} + \text{WC}_{1-x}) - \text{Ti} - (\text{WC}_{1-x} + \text{TiC}) - \text{Ti}$ (substrate)

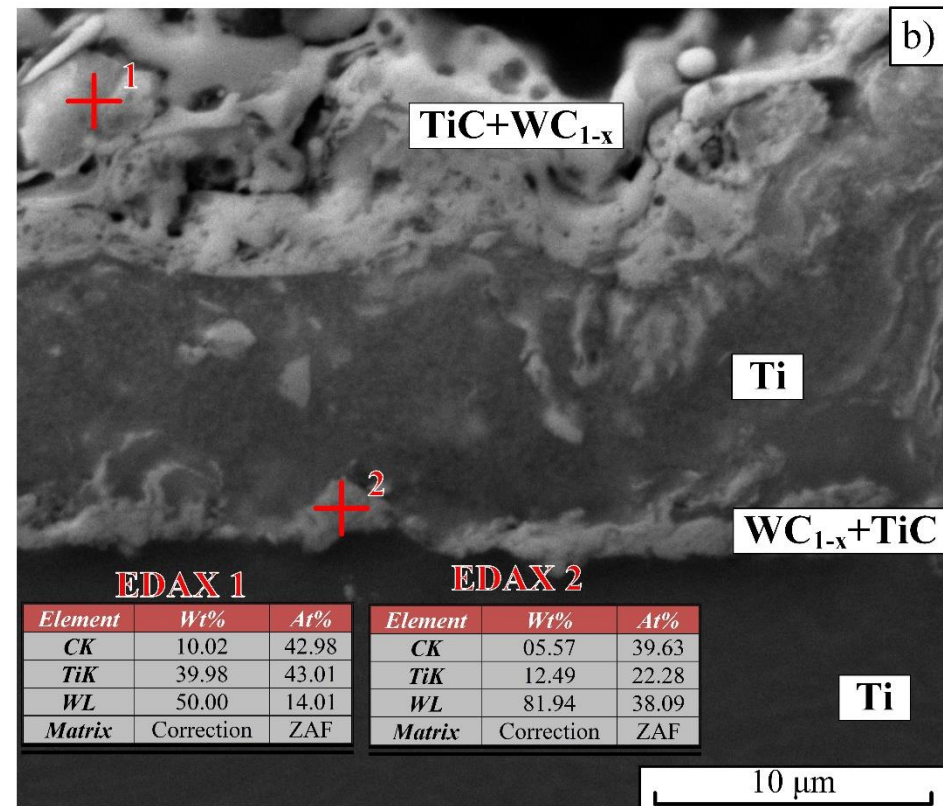
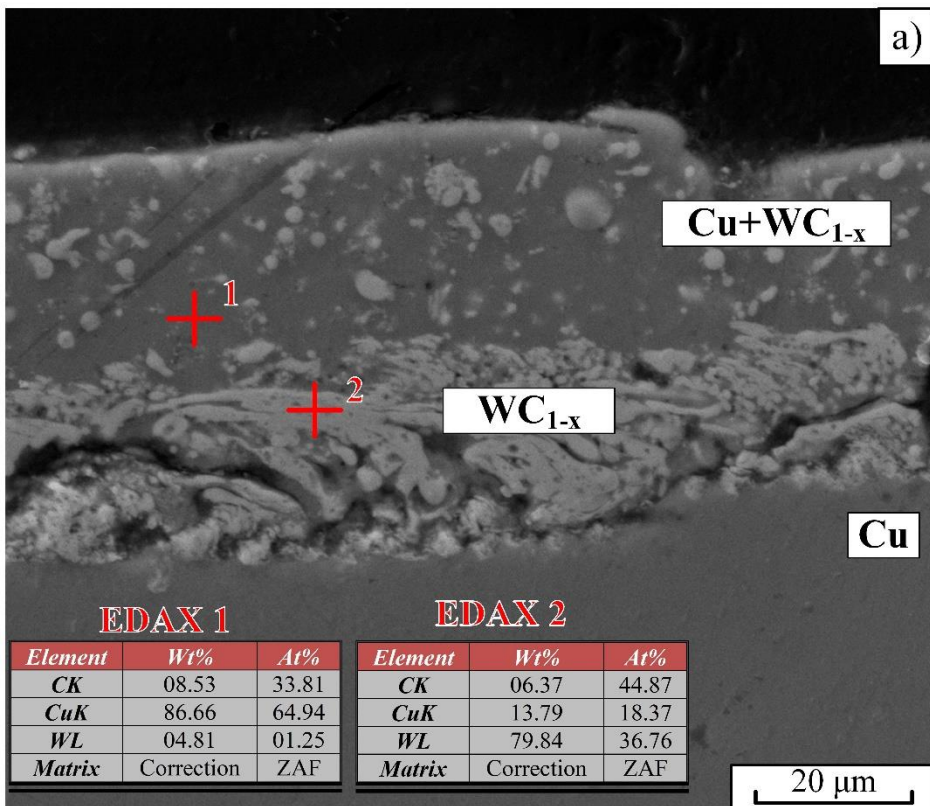
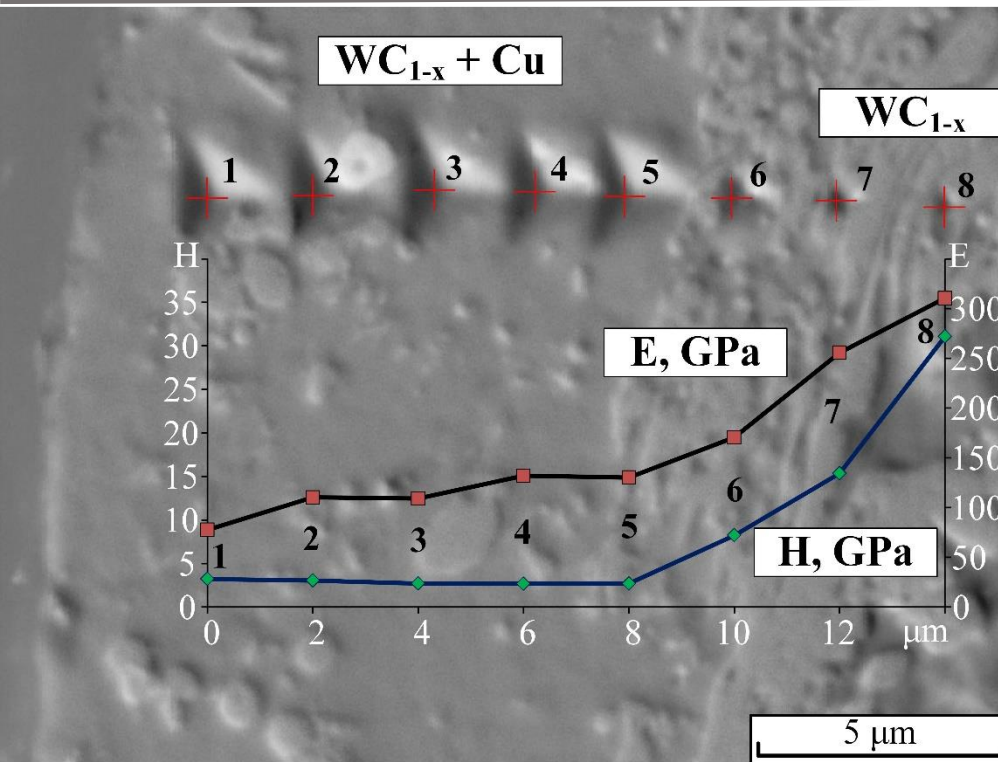


Fig. 7 – SEM-images of cross-sections of coating deposited on (a) copper substrate, (b) – titanium substrate.

CONCLUSION



Measurements of the mechanical properties in the region of the large specimen WC_{1-x} gave values of **$H = 33.0 \pm 0.9$, $E = 401 \pm 14$ GPa** and **$H = 29.2 \pm 0.8$ GPa, $E = 410 \pm 15$ GPa** for the coating on **copper** and **titanium** substrate respectively.

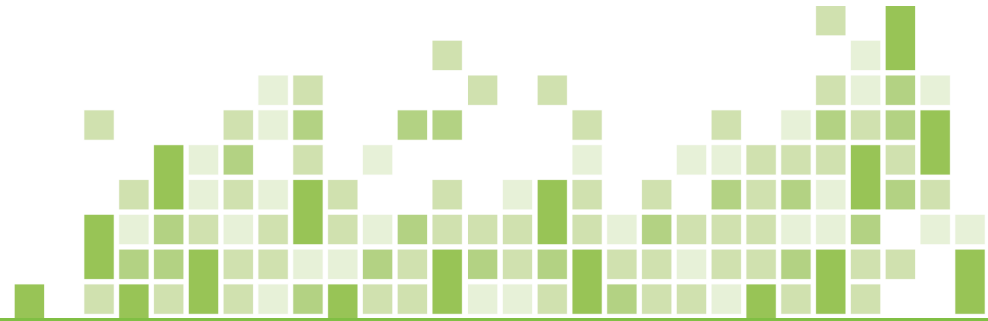
Fig. 7 – SEM-image of areas with the nanoindenter prints along the line “surface layer – intermediate layer” with corresponding values of hardness and Young's modulus for every point

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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