

# Magnesium Enhanced Reactivity of High Energy Composites

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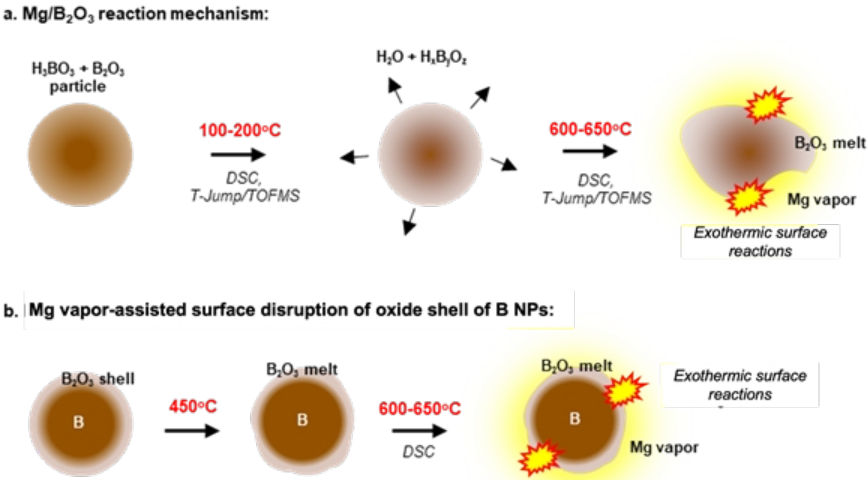
## FULL DESCRIPTION

### Background

Boron (B) is regarded as a premier candidate fuel in high-energy composites due to its higher reaction enthalpies. However, boron suffers from sluggish oxidation and energy release kinetics as a result of its low melting oxide shell. Post-melting, the non-volatile liquid oxide layer acts as a diffusion barrier to the oxidizing species and restricts their access to the boron core, thereby inhibiting oxidation and energy release.

### Technology

Prof. Zachariah and his team have developed an innovative magnesium/boron (Mg/B) based composite that offers a thermodynamically and kinetically viable source of highly reactive gas-phase Mg that acts as an etchant for the oxide shell of boron. The developed composite creates a pristine and accessible fuel surface for the reaction. Further reactions are facilitated by the thinning of the oxide shell. Together, these serve to enhance the combustion of boron.



Schematic illustration of the reactivity enhancement of Boron

## CONTACT

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## OTHER INFORMATION

### KEYWORDS

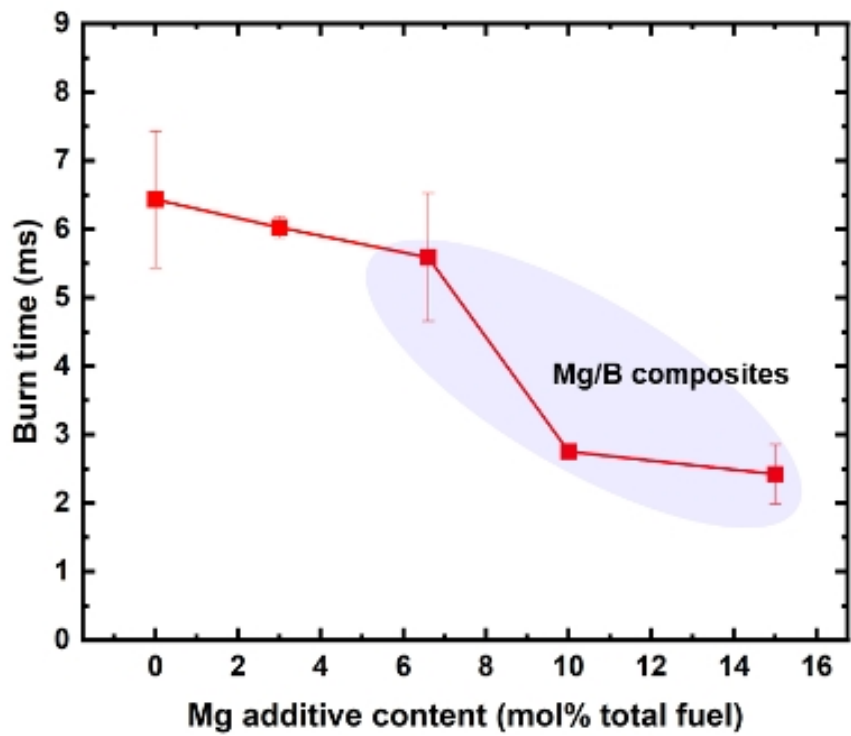
energetic composites, thermites,  
propellants, pyrotechnics, solid fuels

### CATEGORIZED AS

- [Energy](#)
  - [Other](#)
- [Materials & Chemicals](#)
  - [Composites](#)
  - [Nanomaterials](#)

### RELATED CASES

2023-971-0



Graph showing the burn characteristics of B/CuO nanoenergetic composites. Mg/B/CuO composites show significant enhancement in burn times and pressurization over B/CuO composites.

ADVANTAGES

The significant benefits and aspects of this Mg/B-based composites relative to B-based composites are:

- ▶ A 6-fold enhancement in pressurization rates.
- ▶ A 30% increase in peak pressures.
- ▶ Shortened burn time - from 6.5 milliseconds (ms) to ~2 ms - a 60% reduction.
- ▶ Synergistic effect of the Mg and B fuels responsible for the augmentation of reactivity.
- ▶ Potential for similar augmentation for high-energy composites based on nanoscale metals and metalloids such as Aluminum, Titanium, Silicon, etc.

SUGGESTED USES

Applications that use energetic materials such as propellants, solid fuels, thermites, etc.

USER DEFINED 1

- ▶ Please review [all inventions by Prof. Zachariah and his team](#) at UCR.
- ▶ Please read [recent press coverage](#) of Prof. Zachariah, at UCR.
- ▶ Please visit [Prof. Zachariah's research group website](#) to learn more about their research.

RELATED MATERIALS

- ▶ [Magnesium-Enhanced Reactivity of Boron Particles; Role of Mg/B2O3 Exothermic Surface Reactions](#)

PATENT STATUS

Patent Pending

RELATED TECHNOLOGIES

- ▶ [One-Step Synthesis of Aligned Nanoparticles With High Purity](#)
- ▶ [Unzipping Polymers For Enhanced Energy Release](#)

