

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements i

Abstract iii

Résumé..... v

Table of Contents..... vii

List of Figures xi

List of Tables..... xvii

Nomenclature xix

Chapter 1 Introduction..... 1

 1.1. Problem statement..... 1

 1.2. Idea and hypothesis 2

 1.3. Thesis outline 3

Chapter 2 State of the art review..... 5

 2.1. Classical wetting 5

 2.1.1. Anti-sticking behavior..... 8

 2.2. Fundamentals of wetting phenomena..... 8

 2.2.1. Van der Waals forces of attraction 9

 2.3. Wetting of porous materials 10

 2.4. Mechanical durability studies..... 11

 2.5. Friction and wear..... 14

 2.5.1. Lubricated sliding..... 15

 2.6. Tribological characterizations in alumina 15

Chapter 3 Materials and methods 17

 3.1. Materials used 17

3.2. Processes, experimental procedures.....	18
3.2.1. PDMS replication	18
3.2.2. Perfluorosilanization	19
3.2.3. Slip casting.....	19
3.3. Pre-sintering, sintering and densification.....	20
3.4. Polishing and parallelism procedure.....	21
3.5. Oxygen plasma treatment	21
3.6. Liquid impregnation	22
3.7. Solid impregnation and hot embossing.....	24
3.8. Characterizations	26
3.8.1. Centrifugal sedimentation.....	26
3.8.2. Rheological studies	26
3.8.3. Archimedes principle and density measurements	26
3.8.4. Scanning electron microscopy	27
3.8.5. Digital holographic microscopy.....	27
3.8.6. Mercury intrusion porosimetry	27
3.8.7. X-Ray diffraction	28
3.8.8. Vickers hardness	28
3.8.9. Laser confocal microscopy	29
3.8.10. Optical profilometry	29
3.8.11. Roughness using Atomic force microscopy	30
3.9. Wetting characterizations	31
3.9.1. Contact angle measurements.....	31
3.9.2. Liquid menisci in 3 phase systems.....	32
3.10. Tribological characterizations	32
3.11. Dark field X-Ray imaging	33

Chapter 4 Wetting properties of liquid impregnated mesoporous α -Al₂O₃ composites 35

4.1. Wetting properties of solid impregnated mesoporous α -Al ₂ O ₃ composites	35
4.2. Wetting properties of liquid impregnated mesoporous α -Al ₂ O ₃ composites.....	36
4.2.1. About the manuscript.....	36
4.3. Menisci in three phase systems.....	50
4.3.1. Equilibrium static contact angle measurements.....	50
4.4. Summary	52

Chapter 5 Tribological characterizations of Fomblin® oil impregnated mesoporous α-Al₂O₃ composites	53
5.1. As-sintered alumina matrices	54
5.1.1. Microstructural characterizations	54
5.1.2. Frictional behavior	56
5.1.3. Wear rate diagram as a function of alumina density	59
5.1.4. Characterization of samples post wear	60
5.2. Polished alumina matrices.....	62
5.2.1. Microstructural characterizations	62
5.2.2. Frictional behavior	63
5.2.3. Self-mating of Fomblin® lubricated alumina.....	64
5.2.4. Wear rate diagram versus Vickers hardness.....	64
5.2.5. Characterization of samples post wear	65
5.2.6. Roughness measurements post wear	66
5.3. Effect of sliding frequency	67
5.4. Effect of Fomblin® oil viscosity	68
5.5. Summary	69
Chapter 6 Self-replenishing and wetting properties post wear tests	71
6.1. Self-replenishing properties	71
6.2. Wetting properties post wear tests	75
6.2.1. About the manuscript	75
6.3. Theoretical prediction of self-healing times.....	88
6.4. Optimum alumina density	93
6.5. Summary	94
Chapter 7 Fabrication of bulk microstructured mesoporous α-Al₂O₃ samples	95
7.1. Effect of Surface Microstructuring	95
7.2. Preparation of microstructured MPA surfaces	95
7.2.1. About the manuscript	96
7.3. Summary	109
Chapter 8 Conclusions and outlook	111
8.1. Recommendations and outlook	113
Appendix A Wetting and tribological properties of solid impregnated MPA composites	115

A. 1.	Eicosane impregnated composites.....	115
A. 2.	Moldflon™ and Zonyl® impregnated composites.....	116
A. 3.	Tribological characterizations of solid impregnated MPA composites.....	116
Appendix B Supporting information		119
B. 1.	Equilibrium SCAs of liquids with flat sapphire with and without employing O ₂ plasma treatment	120
B. 2.	Open and closed porosity measurements.....	120
B. 3.	Physical properties of materials used for the study.....	121
B. 4.	Optimal parameters for Fomblin® oil infiltration into MPA.....	121
B. 5.	Infiltration, spreading, infiltration+spreading, No infiltration+ no spreading	121
B. 6.	Infiltration behavior: Change in width, height and volume of water drop atop non-infiltrated dry MPA sample	122
B. 7.	Wetting dynamics of water drop atop O ₂ plasma treated Fomblin® impregnated MPA sample	123
B. 8.	Fomblin® oil drop atop water impregnated MPA samples	123
B. 9.	Infiltration and Spreading behaviors: Change in width, height and volume of water drop atop Fomblin® impregnated and unflooded MPA	124
B. 10.	Effect of viscosity on impregnation dynamics	124
B. 11.	Surface energies, surface tensions of solids and liquids respectively, and their apolar and polar components	125
Appendix C Supporting Information.....		127
C.1.	As received granulated/agglomerated alumina powder morphology	128
C.2.	Particle size distribution and slurry viscosity measurements.....	128
C.3.	Pore size distribution	129
C.4.	Laser ablation of polycarbonate sheet and AFM image of DOE structures	130
C.5.	Characterization of Sylgard PDMS showing several locations of set of concentric circles	131
C.6.	Ceramic and Sylgard PDMS sample pictures showing macro cavity defect and defect free samples	131
C.7.	Reynolds number (Re) calculations.....	132
C.8.	Low magnification image of Switzerland topography on alumina ceramic	133
References		135
Curriculum vitae		145