

*Supporting information*

# Ionic Conductivity Increased by Two Orders of Magnitude in Micrometer-Thick Vertical Yttria-Stabilized ZrO<sub>2</sub> Nanocomposite Films

*Shinbuhm Lee,<sup>†</sup> Wenrui Zhang,<sup>‡</sup> Fauzia Khatkhatay,<sup>‡</sup> Haiyan Wang,<sup>‡</sup> Quanxi Jia,<sup>§</sup> and Judith L. MacManus-Driscoll<sup>†,\*</sup>*

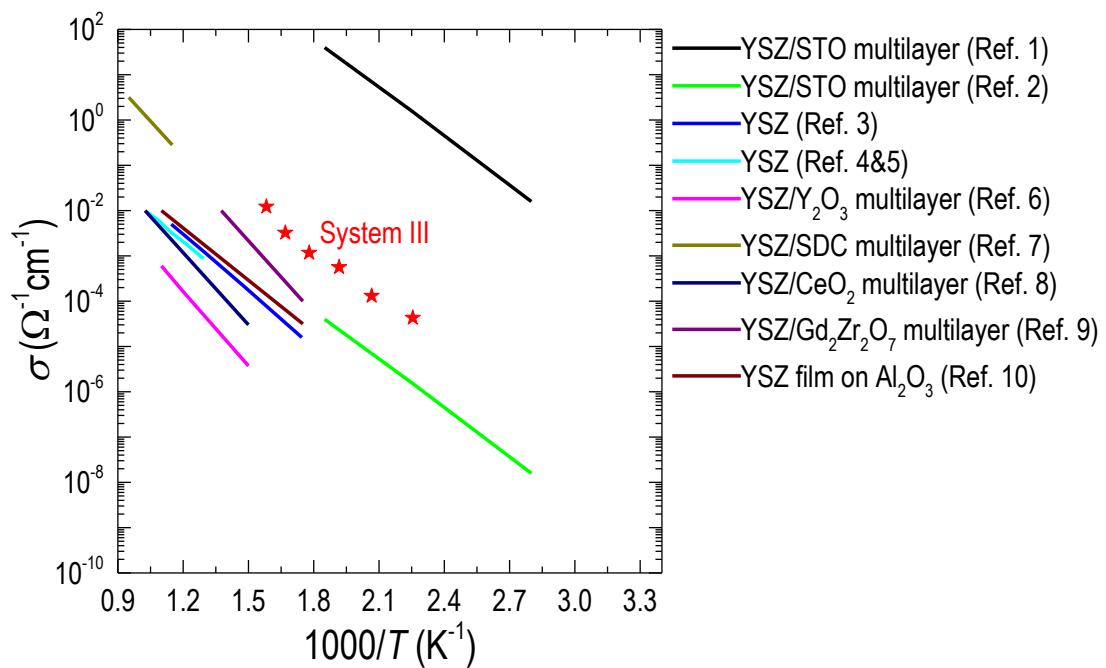
<sup>†</sup>Department of Materials Science and Metallurgy, University of Cambridge, 27 Charles Babbage Road, Cambridge, CB3 0FS, United Kingdom

<sup>‡</sup>Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843, United States

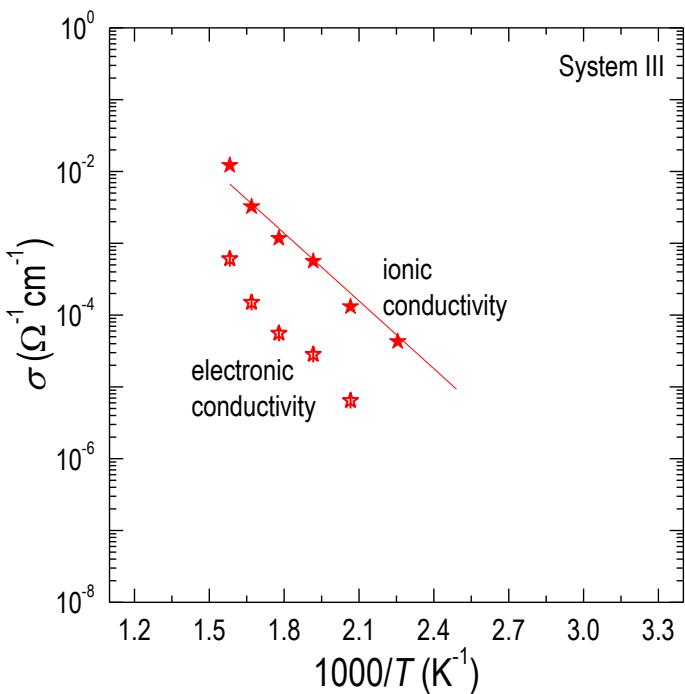
<sup>§</sup>Center for Integrated Nanotechnologies, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545, United States

## **Corresponding Author**

\*E-mail: jld35@cam.ac.uk



**Figure S1.** Comparison of ionic conductivities in system III (YSZ-STO/SDC-STO double layered nanoscaffold films) and other YSZ nanostructures. Although YSZ/STO multilayer films (Ref. 1, black line) seem to have higher ionic conductivity than our nanoscaffold films, there have been many debates on the calculation of their ionic conductivity. Guo *et al.* (Ref. 2, green line) reconsidered the ionic conductivity in YSZ/STO multilayer films and found that it should be lowered by six orders of magnitude.



**Figure S2.** Comparision of ionic and electronic conductivities in system III (YSZ-STO/SDC-STO double layered nanoscaffold films).

## References

1. Garcia-Barriocanal, J.; Rivera-Calzada, A.; Varela, M.; Sefrioui, Z.; Iborra, E.; Leon, C.; Pennycook, S. J.; Santamaria, J. Colossal Ionic Conductivity at Interfaces of Epitaxial  $ZrO_2:Y_2O_3/SrTiO_3$  Heterostructures. *Science* **2008**, *321*, 676–680.
2. Guo, X. Comment on “Colossal Ionic Conductivity at Interfaces of Epitaxial  $ZrO_2:Y_2O_3/SrTiO_3$  Heterostructures” *Science* **2009**, *324*, 465a.
3. Skinner, S. J.; Kilner, J. A. Oxygen Ion Conductors. *Mater. Today* **2003**, *6*, 30–37.
4. Wachsman, E. D.; Lee, K. T. Lowering The Temperature of Solid Oxide Fuel Cells. *Science* **2011**, *334*, 935–939.

5. Wachsman, E.; Ishihara, T.; Kilner, J. Low-Temperature Solid-Oxide Fuel Cells. *MRS Bull.* **2014**, *39*, 773–779.
6. Korte, C.; Peters, A.; Janek, J.; Hesse, D.; Zakharov, N. Ionic Conductivity And Activation Energy for Oxygen Ion Transport in Superlattices—The Semicoherent Multilayer System YSZ ( $\text{ZrO}_2 + 9.5 \text{ mol\% Y}_2\text{O}_3$ )/ $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3$ . *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.* **2008**, *10*, 4623.
7. Sanna, S.; Esposito, V.; Tebano, A.; Licoccia, S.; Traversa, E.; Balestrino, G. Enhancement of Ionic Conductivity in Sm-Doped Ceria/Yttria-Stabilized Zirconia Heteroepitaxial Structures. *Small* **2010**, *6*, 1863–1867.
8. Pergolesi, D.; Fabbri, E.; Cook, S. N.; Roddatis, V.; Traversa, E.; Kilner, J. A. Tensile Lattice Distortion Does Not Affect Oxygen Transport in Yttria-Stabilized Zirconia– $\text{CeO}_2$  Heterointerfaces. *ACS Nano* **2012**, *6*, 10524–10534.
9. Li, B.; Zhang, J.; Kaspar, T.; Shutthanandan, V.; Ewing, R. C.; Lian, J. Multilayered YSZ/GZO Films with Greatly Enhanced Ionic Conduction for Low Temperature Solid Oxide Fuel Cells. *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.* **2013**, *15*, 1296.
10. Jiang, J.; Hu, X.; Shen, W.; Ni, C.; Hertz, J. L. Improved Ionic Conductivity in Strained Yttria-Stabilized Zirconia Thin Films. *Appl. Phys. Lett.* **2013**, *102*, 143901.