

*Supplementary Information*

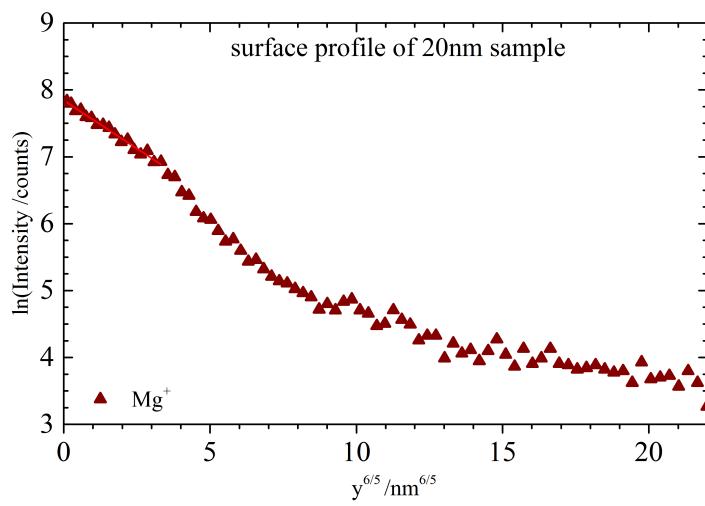
**YSZ thin films with minimized grain boundary resistivity**

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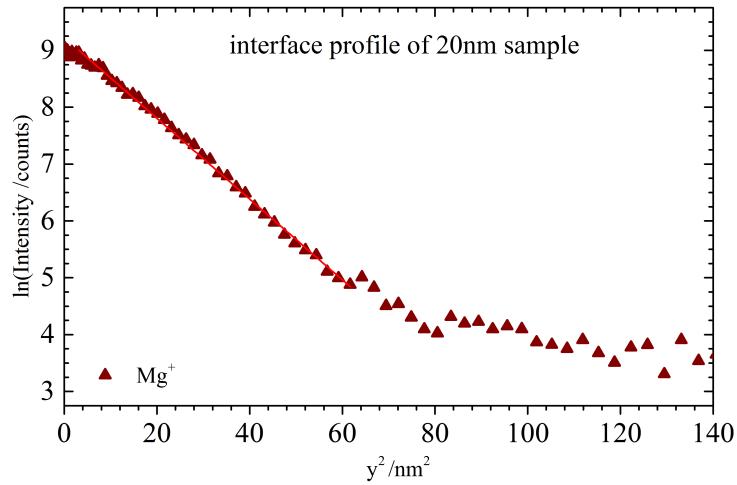
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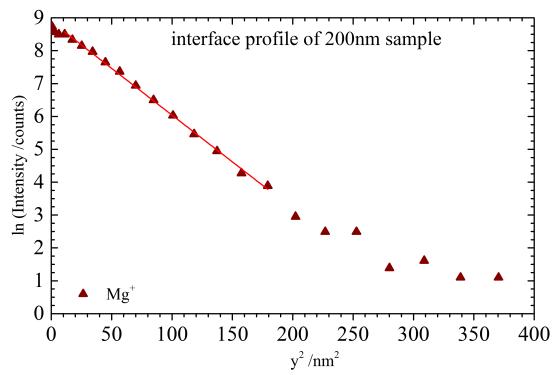
S1: Natural logarithm of the  $\text{Mg}^+$  intensity vs.  $y^{6/5}$ , of the 20nm thick YSZ thin film on  $\text{MgO}$ .  $y$  is the diffusion depth away from the surface of the sample. The linear region corresponds to grain boundary diffusion.

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S2: Natural logarithm of the  $\text{Mg}^+$  intensity vs.  $y^2$ , of the 20nm thick sample.  $y$  is the diffusion depth away from the interface (here corresponding to 0nm). The dependence of intensity on depth suggests bulk diffusion.

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S3: Natural logarithm of the  $\text{Mg}^+$  intensity vs.  $y^2$ , of the 200nm thick sample.  $y$  is the diffusion depth away from the interface (here corresponding to 0nm). The dependence of intensity on depth suggests bulk diffusion.

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