# **The stagnant phase during cyclic phase** α-γ transformations

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# The cyclic partial transformation concept



Chen and Van der Zwaag, Compu Mater Sci 49 (2010) 801-813



# The cyclic partial phase transformation concept

The advantages :

- 1. Ferrite nucleation effects can be suppressed
- 2. The interface mobility for both the austenite to ferrite and ferrite to austenite transformation can be determined.
- 3. Development of element partitioning can be followed



# **Results to be presented**

- 1- cyclic transformation curves at 10 K/min for a Fe-0.17Mn-0.02C alloy
- 2- comparison with PE and LE calculations
- 3- effects of heating and cooling rate on the stagnant stage
- 4- calculated behavior of ternary Fe-X-0.02 C alloys and quaternary alloys Fe-MN-C-X for X = Mn, Ni, Cu, Si,Co
- 5- creating experimental indirect evidence for the Mn spike at the moving interface



### The cyclic phase transformations in Fe-Mn-C alloys

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Chen, Appolaire, Van der Zwaag, Acta Materialia 59 (2011) 6751-6760



# Immediate (type I) Cyclic Phase transformations for Fe-Mn-C



Time



#### **Experimental results for a type I experiment** Fe-0.17Mn-0.023C (wt. %) alloy



Chen, Appolaire, Van der Zwaag, Acta Materialia 59 (2011) 6751-6760



#### **Cycling in the stagnant stage**





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# Holding (type H) **Cyclic phase transformations for Fe-Mn-C**





# **Experimental results for a type H experiment**





# **Modelling 1**

#### Local equilibrium model for Fe-C-M (LE-NP and LE-P)

In the LE model, the carbon and the substitutional element M partitionings according to local equilibrium assumptions, which means the chemical potential of carbon and M across the interface should be constant:

$$\mu_i^{\gamma} = \mu_i^{\alpha}$$
 i=M or C

Diffusion equations:  

$$\frac{\partial X_{i}^{\phi}(r,t)}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{r^{k-1}} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( r^{k-1} D_{i}^{\phi} \left( X_{i}^{\phi}(r,t) \right) \frac{\partial X_{i}^{\phi}(r,t)}{\partial r} \right)$$
Boundary conditions:  

$$\frac{\partial X_{i}^{\phi}(r,t)}{\partial r} \bigg|_{\substack{r=0\\r=L}} = 0 \qquad \Phi = \gamma \text{ or } \alpha \text{ and } i = M \text{ or } C$$
Mass balance at the interface:  

$$J_{i}^{\gamma} - J_{i}^{\alpha} = v \left( X_{i}^{\gamma} - X_{i}^{\alpha} \right) \qquad i = M \text{ or } C$$
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# Modelling the cyclic transformations

#### **Paraequilibrium model for Fe-C-M**

In the paraequilibrium model, the substitutional element M does not redistribute and the chemical potential of C is a constant across the interface. The chemical potential equations can be described as:

 $\mu_{C}^{\gamma} = \mu_{C}^{\alpha}$ 

$$\left(\mu_{M}^{\gamma}-\mu_{M}^{\alpha}\right) = -\frac{X_{Fe}}{X_{M}}\left(\mu_{Fe}^{\gamma}-\mu_{Fe}^{\alpha}\right)$$
Diffusion equations: 
$$\frac{\partial X_{i}^{\phi}(r,t)}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{r^{k-1}}\frac{\partial}{\partial r}\left(r^{k-1}D_{i}^{\phi}\left(X_{i}^{\phi}(r,t)\right)\frac{\partial X_{i}^{\phi}(r,t)}{\partial r}\right)$$
Boundary conditions: 
$$\left.\frac{\partial X_{i}^{\phi}(r,t)}{\partial r}\right|_{\substack{r=0\\r=L}} = 0 \qquad \Phi = \gamma \text{ or } \alpha \text{ and } i = C$$

Mass balance at the interface:  $J_i^{\gamma} - J_i^{\alpha} = v \left( X_i^{\gamma} - X_i^{\alpha} \right)$ 

i = C



#### **Modelling results for type I experiment** for Local Equilibrium and Paraequilibrium





#### **Modelling results for type H experiment**





# **Concentration profiles during 1<sup>st</sup> heating cycle**





### **Concentration profiles for the 1<sup>st</sup> cooling stage**





#### The stagnant stage in more detail



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#### The effect of cooling rate and heating rate on the stagnant stage and inverse transformation stage

October 29, 2013

Chen, Goune, Van der Zwaag, Compu Mater Sci 55(2012)34



# Simulation

115 different combinations of cooling and heating rate have been simulated by local equilibrium model.

The range of cooling and heating rate is from 5K/min to 1500K/min

The studied alloy is Fe-0.2Mn-0.02C



# **Varying heating rate**



Equilibrium interface position at 885C is 11µm

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Fe-0.2Mn-0.02C

# **Varying cooling rate**

Cooling rate fixed at 10 K/min

Fe-0.2Mn-0.02C



Equilibrium interface position at 885C is 11µm

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### **Definitions**

Length of stagnant stage:

$$\Delta T = T_{C_4} - T_{C_5}$$





#### The stagnant stage





### The calculated effect of substitutional element in Fe-X-C alloys

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Chen, Goune, Van der Zwaag, Compu Mater Sci 55(2012)34



#### Fe-Mn-C

T2-T1=25K & A3-T2=5K

Heating & cooling rate fixed at 10 K/min



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#### T<sub>2</sub>-T<sub>1</sub>=25K & A<sub>3</sub>-T<sub>2</sub>=5K



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#### The effect of X concentration on the stagnant stage for Fe-0.02C- X





#### Fe-Mn-Ni-C quarternary system

















#### Effect of X concentration on the stagnant stage for Fe-0.2Mn-0.02C-X





#### Creating evidence for the existence of the Mn –spike after cyclic transformations (spatial stagnant stage)

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Chen, Van der Zwaag, Phil Mag Letters, 92(2012)86





# Spike is really there???





















#### **Mn profiles as calculated by LE model**





### The effect of Mn concentration on local stagnant stage

Fe-0.023C-0.17Mn

Fe-0.1C-0.49Mn



**T**UDelft

#### Addition of Si and a higher Mn %



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#### **Temperature or position dependent??**





# Conclusions

- 1. Substitutional element partitioning is responsible for the stagnant stage
- 2. The degree of partitioning depends on chemical element, heating rate and cooling rate
- 3. The effect of chemical elements on stagnant stage seems additive
- 4. The partitioning related to the stagnant stage can affect the kinetics of subsequent transformations (provided the interface moves in the same direction)

