

# The magnetic-field-induced alloy element concentration change in alloy carbides

**Tingping Hou, Kaiming Wu, Yu Li** 

Wuhan University of Science and Technology

Hubei Province P. R. China

ALEMI, June 25th, 2013

#### Influence of magnetic field on phase transformation





## Motivation



The schematic diagram of the principle component

in Tokamak in reduced activation steel

Reece, R. J. 1988

Nuclear fusion reactor

# Background



Z.X. Xia, C. Zhang \*, H. Lan, Z.Q. Liu, Z.G. Yang Materials Letters 65 (2011) 937-939



## The magnetic parameter of alloy carbide



The calculated variation of relative spontaneous magnetization of pure iron with relative temperature.

Dependences of the magnetization on the chromium concentration x in  $Fe_{3(1-x)}Cr_{3x}C$  and  $Fe_{7(1-x)}Cr_7xC_3$ .

Choi J K et al. 2000

Konyaeva MA et al. 2009

## The magnetic parameter of carbide



(a) Variations of magnetization with temperature (b) schematic diagram of Gibbs free energy with carbon concentration for  $Fe_2C$ ,  $Fe_5C_2$  and  $\alpha$ -Fe

Y D Zhang et al. ISIJ International (2005)

### Heat Treatment Equipment

Fe-0.28C-3.0Mo alloy, isothermal heat treatment

Fe-0.28C-3.0Mo alloy, temperature heat treatment

2.25Cr-1.0Mo alloy, temperature heat treatment

#### 0 T 12 T

## Heat Treatment Equipment



## Foil and extraction Replicas (C or Au)



## Carbides in steel



A magnetic field is usually considered to have a significant influence on ferromagnetic materials, such as alloy carbides. But less attention has been paid to alloy carbide precipitation.

## Weiss molecular theory



The magnetization as a function of the temperature without and with a 12-T magnetic field for pure iron

$$M = NmB_j(\alpha)$$

#### **First principle calculation**

# Program structure of WIEN2k

The all-electron FPLAPW method was used as embodied in the WIEN2K code. The exchange-correlation potential was calculated using the GGA via the scheme of Perdew-Burke-Ernzerhof 96 (PBE-GGA)



## Part I

The influence of the high magnetic field on the alloy carbide in

austenite-ferrite isothermal transformation of Fe-C-Mo alloy

## Different morphology of carbides



## Morphology of carbides at 530-610 °C



Magnetic Field promotes the precipitation of  $M_6C$ 

#### Magnetic Field promotes the precipitation of M<sub>6</sub>C



12 T



0 T

Identification of  $M_6C$ 



16

### Morphology and EDS analysis at 530, 570, 610 °C

Without a 12 T magnetic field				With a 12 T magnetic field				
Time	20 s	60 s	600 s	3600 s	20 s	60 s	600 s	3600 s
Туре	Fe <sub>3</sub> C	Fe <sub>3</sub> C	$M_2C$	M <sub>6</sub> C	M <sub>6</sub> C	M <sub>6</sub> C	M <sub>6</sub> C	M <sub>6</sub> C
		M <sub>2</sub> C M <sub>3</sub> C	M <sub>3</sub> C			/		
Carbide	Fe <sub>3</sub> C	Fe <sub>3</sub> C (Fe, Mo) <sub>2</sub> C (Fe, Mo) <sub>3</sub> C	(Fe, Mo) <sub>2</sub> C (Fe, Mo) <sub>3</sub> C	(Fe, Mo) <sub>6</sub> C	(Fe, Mo) <sub>6</sub> C	(Fe, Mo) <sub>6</sub> C	(Fe, Mo) <sub>6</sub> C	(Fe, Mo) <sub>6</sub> C

Magnetic field promotes the M<sub>6</sub>C precipitation



Magnetic field has no influence on the morphology of  $M_6C$ 

530-3600s-off

530-3600s-on

# Gibbs free energy

$$G^{*}(T,H) = G^{*}(T,0) - \int_{0}^{M} B \cdot dM$$
Chemical Gibbs free energy  
dependent on temperature
Magnetic Gibbs free energy mainly  
dependent on magnetic field and  
magnetization

## Magnetic free energy

Carbides can be magnetized to some extent in a high magnetic field because Gibbs free energy is lowered in relation to their magnetization.

According to following equation, magnetic free energy change of carbide transformation can be expressed:





The temperature variations of magnetization curve

The temperature variations of magnetic induction intensity of  $M_6C$ 



$$- \Delta G^{M} = -\int_{0}^{M} \overline{B} \cdot d\overline{M}$$

The magnetic free energy change of three carbides

#### The effect of magnetic field on carbide particle morphology

#### Ferrite

M<sub>6</sub>C



The variation curve of the relative free energy change with the aspect ratio

#### Measured concentration of substitutional solute atoms in the carbide of $M_6C$

Temp.	0 T				12 T			
	Fe (wt.%)		Mo (wt.%)		Fe (wt.%)		Mo (wt.%)	
	Average	Standard Deviation ( $\sigma$ )	Average	Standard Deviation (σ)	Average	Standard Deviation (σ)	Average	Standard Deviation (σ)
530°C	38.69	0.98	61.30	0.98	67.16	4.48	32.78	4.48



	Higher than the composition without the magnetic field					
0 T, Fe (wt.%)						
38-45 (700°C~900°C)	Ref. [Sato T, 1962]					
36.4-38.6 (727°C)	Ref.[Uhrenius B,1975]					
58.15 (874°C)	Ref. [Woodyatt LR,1979]					

EDS analysis

#### Measured concentration of substitutional solute atoms in the carbide of $M_6C$

Carbides	Metal	Magnetic moments( $\mu_{B}$ )	400
	Mo (48f)	-0.0273	350
Fe <sub>2</sub> Mo <sub>4</sub> C	Mo (16d)	-0.0933	300
Cubic a=11.26Å	Fe (32e)	1.331	
	C (16c)	0.00047	
	Fe (32e)	1.864	↓ 150
Fe <sub>3</sub> Mo <sub>3</sub> C	Fe (16d)	1.815	100
a=11.11Å	Mo (48f)	-0.0728	50
	C (16c)	0.0108	0
	1		

First principle calculation results

 $\label{eq:constraint} \begin{array}{c} Fe_2Mo_4C \ Fc_3Mo_3C \end{array}$  The magnetic free energy change of Fe and Mo atoms in different carbides  $M_6C$  (Fe\_2Mo\_4C, Fe\_3Mo\_3C).

Fe-∆G

Mo-∆G

 $\overline{}$ 

M<sub>6</sub>C

#### Conclusion

The concentration of substitutional solute atoms Fe and Mo in the carbide of  $(Fe,Mo)_6C$  was influenced by high magnetic field. The change of concentration of substitutional solute atoms Fe and Mo was caused by their differences in magnetic moments.

## Part II

The influence of the high magnetic field on the alloy carbide in tempering transformation of Fe-C-Mo alloy

#### Magnetic field promotes the precipitation of $Fe_5C_2$



Tempered at 200°C for 3600 s

	Tempering	600 s	600 s	3600 s	3600 s
	time	(B=0T)	(B=12 T)	(B=0T)	(B=12 T)
In conclusion $ \rightarrow$	Carbide	ε <b>-Fe</b> ₂C	ε <b>-Fe</b> ₂C	ε <b>-Fe</b> ₂C	ε-Fe <sub>2</sub> C
	type	- η-Fe₂C	- η-Fe <sub>2</sub> C	η-Fe <sub>2</sub> C	$\eta$ -Fe <sub>2</sub> C
		•	• –	•	$\chi$ -Fe <sub>5</sub> C <sub>2</sub>

25

## The magnetic Gibbs free energy change



#### The effect of the magnetic field on the carbide at 530°C



## The identification of M<sub>6</sub>C carbide



The magnetic field promotes the precipitation of  $M_6C$ 



#### Measured concentration of substitutional solute atoms in the carbide of M<sub>2</sub>C and M<sub>3</sub>C



#### Measured concentration of substitutional solute atoms in the carbide of $M_6C$



Carbon extraction replicas specimen and the average EDS analysis of  $(Fe, Mo)_6C$ 

Lattice constants of Fe6-xMoxC (where x is the atomic concentration of Mo).



Regarding to the carbides of  $M_2C$  and  $M_3C$ , no obvious concentration change was detected when 12-T magnetic field was applied. However, regarding the carbide of  $M_6C$ , the concentration of Fe atom was increased, whereas the concentration of Mo atom was decreased when a 12-T magnetic was applied.

#### The calculated Fe magnetic moment of carbides



The number of electrons per atom, e/a

The calculated magnetic moments per unit cell from the first principle calculation in  $M_6C$ ,  $M_3C$  and  $M_2C$  carbides as a function of the number of electrons per atom. The two arrows represent the experimentally measured data.

## The magnetic Gibbs free energy change



The relative magnetic free energy change for  $M_2C$  (Fe<sub>0.43</sub>Mo<sub>1.57</sub>C),  $M_3C$  (Fe<sub>2.22</sub>Mo<sub>0.78</sub>C),  $M_6C$  (Fe<sub>3.36</sub>Mo<sub>2.64</sub>C and Fe<sub>4.48</sub>Mo<sub>1.52</sub>C), respectively.

The magnetic free energy change of Fe and Mo atoms

#### The effect of the magnetic field on alloy carbide at 700°C



Morphology of alloy carbide tempered at 700 °C

#### The effect of the magnetic field on the carbide at 700°C



There was no pronounced effect of high magnetic field on the precipitation sequence of alloy carbides when specimens were tempered at  $700^{\circ}$  C. Because they were changed into paramagnetic phases at higher temperature.

## Part III

The influence of the high magnetic field on the alloy carbide in tempering transformation of 2.25Cr-Mo alloy

## The identification of $M_{23}C_6$ carbide



The morphology of  $M_{23}C_6$  carbide and the selected area electron diffraction

#### The effect of the magnetic field on the carbide at 550°C

#### 12 Tesla



600 s, 12 T

3600 s, 12 T

# The precipitation sequence

W	fithout a magnetic	field	With a 12-T magnetic field		
Time	600 s	3600 s	600 s	3600 s	
Туре	M2C, M3C	M <sub>2</sub> C, M <sub>3</sub> C	M <sub>2</sub> C, M <sub>3</sub> C M <sub>7</sub> C <sub>3</sub> , M <sub>23</sub> C <sub>6</sub>	M <sub>2</sub> C, M <sub>3</sub> C M <sub>7</sub> C <sub>3</sub> , M <sub>23</sub> C <sub>6</sub>	
Carbides	(Fe, Cr, Mo)2C (Fe, Cr, Mo)3C	(Fe, Cr, Mo)2C (Fe, Cr, Mo)3C	(Fe, Cr, Mo) <sub>2</sub> C (Fe, Cr, Mo) <sub>3</sub> C (Fe, Cr, Mo)7C <sub>3</sub> (Fe, Cr, Mo)23C6	(Fe, Cr, Mo)2C (Fe, Cr, Mo)3C (Fe, Cr, Mo)7C3 (Fe, Cr, Mo)23C6	

## $M_{23}C_6$ and $M_7C_3$ particles

#### Gold replicas



$$N_{//} = \frac{4\pi}{k^2 - 1} \left[\frac{k}{\sqrt{k^2 - 1}} \ln(k + \sqrt{k^2 - 1}) - 1\right]$$



The demagnetization factor

### **First principle calculation**



## Curie temperature



Wijn H P J 1991 Magnetic Properties of Metals

The Curie temperature in experiment of Fe-Cr alloy

The Curie temperature in theory of Fe-Cr alloy

## M-T and magnetic Gibbs free energy



The magnetization curve with the temperature

The magnetic free energy change

#### The effect of the magnetic field on the carbide at 700°C



#### The effect of the magnetic field on the carbide at 700°C



# Conclusions

♦ The magnetic Gibbs free energy change determined the precipitation behaviors of the  $M_6C$ ,  $M_{23}C_6$  and  $M_7C_3$ . In essence, the higher Fe atom content in carbides  $M_6C$ ,  $M_{23}C_6$  and  $M_7C_3$  carbide makes the magnetic moment increased remarkably, which thus reduces the magnetic Gibbs free energy of alloy carbides.

◆ There was no pronounced influence on the precipitation behaviors of paramagnetic alloy carbides when specimens were tempered at high temperature (700°C).





- Further detailed descriptions of the influence of the magnetic field on the phase transformation.
- The systematic research on the multi-action considering to the temperature and magnetic field.





# Background

(c)

Gibbs free energy

Fe

Magnetic field increase the nucleation rate, facilitating more uniform grain distribution Magnetic field changes the morphology

Magnetic field changes the Gibbs free energy resulted in phase transformation

# YD Zhang, 2004

Watanabe T, 2006

Sheikh-Ali AD, 2002



t = 10 hr

(c)

49





The ferrite grains and pearlite colonies alignment along the magnetic field Zhang YD et al. J Mag Mag Mater, 2004

Schematic illustration of nucleation of ferrite at austenite grain junctions along the magnetic field direction



The schematic diagram of the prolate ellipsoid



### Heat Treatment Equipment



# Summary I

• The precipitation of  $M_6C$  resulted from the remarkable reduction of the magnetic Gibbs free energy.

◆ The substitutional solute atom concentration change in high magnetic field was mainly attributed to the change of magnetic free energy resulted from the magnetization differences of Fe and Mo atoms in each alloy carbide.

♦ Strong magnetic field had almost no influence on the morphology of  $M_6C$  carbide. Mininum energy principle was used to calculate the magnetic field morphology of carbide. The results show that the aspect ratio was approximately equal to 1:1, which indicates that the morphology the  $M_6C$  carbide is spherical. Actually, the Fe<sub>3</sub>Mo<sub>3</sub>C was appeared to be equiaxed in shape.

# Summary II

• The precipitation of the  $Fe_5C_2$  and  $M_6C$  carbides were promoted by a 12-T high magnetic field at low (200°C) and intermediate temperature (530°C), respectively.

◆ The magnetic Gibbs free energy change was not only related to the magnetization but also the internal field induction of carbides. The reduction in magnetic Gibbs free energy was responsible for the promotion of specific carbides at low and intermediate temperature.

♦ There was no visible change in the precipitation sequence of alloy carbides when specimens were tempered at high temperature (700°C). This is because the alloy carbides were changed into paramagnetic phases.

♦ A 12-T high magnetic field promoted the precipitation and also increased the concentration of Fe atom of  $M_{23}C_6$  or  $M_6C$  alloy carbide during martensitic tempering at 200°C, which was attributed to the reduction of Gibbs free energy caused by the high magnetic field.

♦ The concentration of substitutional solute Fe atoms in the carbide of  $M_6C$ ,  $M_{23}C_6$  and  $M_7C_3$  was greatly influenced by a strong magnetic field. The higher Fe atom content in the  $M_{23}C_6$  and  $M_7C_3$  carbide makes the magnetic moment increased remarkably, which thus reduces the magnetic Gibbs free energy of alloy carbides.

◆ There was no pronounced influence on the precipitation sequence of alloy carbides when specimens were tempered at high temperature (700°C).