Perspective

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Thermomechanical transformations for thermoelasticity and superelasticity in shape memory alloys

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DESCRIPTION

Shape memory alloys are a type of sophisticated smart material that responds to changes in the environment by providing a stimulus. These alloys are adaptive structural materials that have superelasticity, a shape memory effect, and the capacity to restore two different shapes under various circumstances. The shape memory effect, which causes the material's shape to reversibly cycle between its original and deformed shapes, is started by thermomechanical treatments for cooling and deformation and carried out thermally for heating and cooling. As a result, this phenomenon may be referred to as thermoelasticity or thermal memory. Thermal and stress-induced martensitic transformations, as well as thermomechanical and thermoresponsive transformations, control this phenomena. Cooperative atom movement in <110 > -type directions on {110} -type planes of the austenite matrix, together with the lattice twinning reaction, causes thermally induced martensitic transformations upon cooling. Twinned martensite structures emerge from ordered parent phase structures. Through stress-induced martensitic changes with deformation, the twinned structures become detwinned martensite structures. By physically stretching and releasing the material at the elasticity limit at a steady temperature, superelasticity is accomplished at the parent phase area. The material exhibits elastic material behavior, recovering its original shape upon release. Stress-induced martensitic transition also results in superelasticity, and stressing causes the ordered parent phase structures to change into detwinned martensite structures. These alloys are useful materials having these characteristics that find usage in a wide range of industries, including the building and biomedical sectors. Lattice twinning and detwinning reactions, which are fueled by both internal and external forces through inhomogeneous lattice invariant shears, are crucial to martensitic transformations.

This feature is present in the metastable beta-phase area of copper-based alloys. These alloys exhibit irregular lattice twinning, which results in the creation of intricate multilayer structures. Depending on the stacking sequences on the densely packed planes of the ordered lattice, the layered structures can be characterized by either 9R or 18R unit cells. CuAlMn and CuZnAl alloys based on copper were the subject of x-ray and electron diffraction investigations in the current contribution. Super lattice reflections can be seen in electron and X-ray diffraction patterns. Long-term X-ray diffracto grams reveal that the aging duration at room temperature affects the diffraction angles and intensities of the diffraction peaks. This outcome relates to the diffusive rearrangement of atoms.

CONCLUSION

Shape memory alloys, especially those based on copper, exhibit remarkable thermo-mechanical behaviors driven by martensitic transformations. Their ability to switch between distinct shapes through thermal or stress-induced processes makes them valuable smart materials with applications across biomedical and structural fields. Key mechanisms such as lattice twinning, detwinning, and atom rearrangement govern their superelastic and shape memory effects. The presence of layered structures like 9R and 18R, influenced by the stacking sequences in the lattice, further highlights the complexity of their internal architecture. Experimental analyses, including X-ray and electron diffraction, reveal that atomic diffusion and aging significantly impact their structural evolution. Overall, the adaptability, responsiveness, and tunable properties of these alloys position them as promising materials for advanced functional applications.